BARNES ALEXANDER NCT MITTEN

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DEADLY CLASS

Volume 3
HOME IS
WHERE THE
HATRED IS





IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

KILLADELPHIA

KILLADELPHIA Vol. Three
Home Is Where The Hatred Is

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"THIS IS NOT REVOLUTION. THIS IS CARNAGE."

FAMILY FIRST

Chapter I





LOS ANGELES.

I'M LEAVING THE PRIESTHOOD.

WALKING BY FAITH IN A GODLESS WORLD IS A FOOL'S ERRAND...

FOR CENTURIES, MANKIND HAS DESCENDED STEADILY INTO MADNESS, DIMMING THE LIGHT THAT GUIDED MY VOW OF OBEDIENCE.

YOU'RE NEEDED IN THE BOOTH, FATHER.

THIS IS THE LAST CONFESSION THESE OLD IRISH EARS WILL EVER HEAR.

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. BLESS ME, FATHER, FOR I HAVE SINNED. IT HAS BEEN OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS SINCE MY LAST CONFESSION.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS, YOU SAY? LET ME GUESS... MIGHT YOU BE EUGENE FROMENTIN? OR PERHAPS FRIEDRICH ENGELS?

I'M A SIMPLE SOUL SEEKING SALVATION.

SON, THIS IS MY FINAL ACT AS A PRIEST. I PRAY IT DELIVERS THE ABSOLUTION YOU SEEK.

OF MY MANY SINS, I REQUIRE DISPENSATION FOR TWO.

THE FIRST INVOLVES THE LIFE, FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD, THAT I HAVE LIVED. THE SECOND WILL BECOME CLEAR AT THE END OF MY SOLILOQUY.

CONSIDERING THE UNIQUE NATURE OF THIS CONVERSATION, WHAT SAY WE DROP THE FORMALITIES? I AM FATHER CONNOR FLANNAGAN, AND FOR TWENTY-ONE YEARS, I HAVE PRESIDED OVER THIS PARISH.

AND I AM THOMAS JEFFERSON, THIRD PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

ABIGAIL, MY LOVE... I'VE COME BACK TO YOU.

NOOO!!

FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS, I WALKED BEHIND YOU IN A WORLD RULED BY MEN. WITH YOUR DEATH, I WAS FREE...

HOW DARE YOU RETURN?!

BRUH, SHOULDA BROUGHT FLOWERS.

KRASH

LOOK AT Y'ALL, READY TO GO IN. REMINDS ME OF THIS CAT CUTTY.

USED TO ROB ME SOON AS I CASHED MY CHECK AT STATE LIQUORS OVER ON EAST OLNEY.

TRIED SWITCHING SPOTS, BUT SOON AS CASH WAS IN HAND, THERE WAS CUTTY.

SO, ONE DAY, I PICKED UP A BRICK...

...WAITED FOR CUTTY TO GET REAL CLOSE...

...AND BUST HIM UPSIDE HIS MOTHERFUCKING HEAD.

AFTER THAT, HE LEFT ME ALONE.

KNOWING THERE'D ALWAYS BE A YOUNG BOL WAITING TO SNATCH UP MY CHEESE, I LEFT THE SCENE.

BEFORE MY TIME IS DONE, I'M RIPPING YA' DEAD HEART OUT'CHA CHEST.

NEVER SHOULD'VE GOTTEN OUT OF THE CAR.

SANGSTER, WE HAVE TO LEAVE NOW.

YOU DRIVE.

I'M GOING TO MAKE THIS RIGHT, SON...

DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I'M GOING TO MAKE THIS RIGHT.

MONTICELLO. JULY 4, 1826.

AS I LAY AT DEATH'S DOOR, EVIL DESCENDED UPON ME.

WHEN I AWAKENED, I WAS A NEW THING.

ONE THAT DRANK HUMAN BLOOD AND COULD NO LONGER TOLERATE SUNLIGHT.

ONCE MY SLAVES BECAME AWARE OF MY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS, THEY DID THEIR BEST TO ACCOMMODATE THEM.

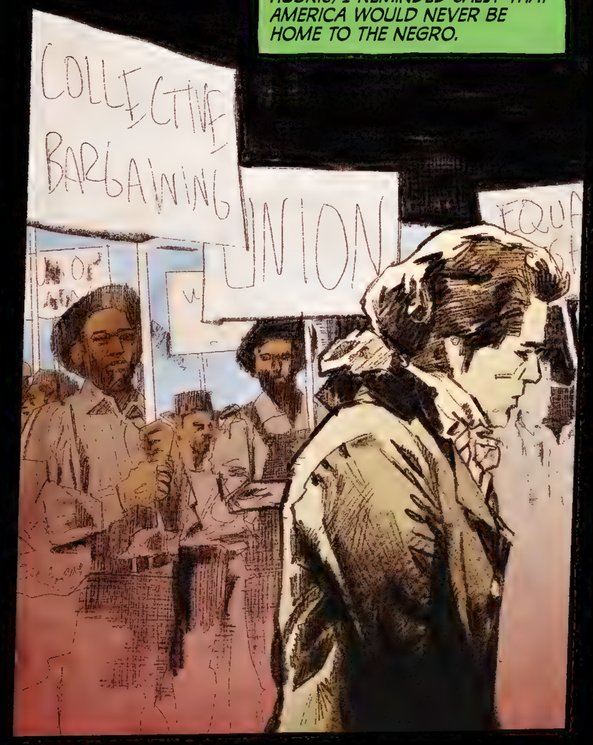
AS A LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD, I LIVED TUCKED AWAY IN THE IVORY TOWERS OF THE ELITE. IN TRUTH, AMERICA WAS A LAND I DID NOT KNOW.

SO I FREED MY NEGROES.

AND LEFT MONTICELLO.

I SOUGHT OUT SALLY HEMINGS, MY FORMER CONCUBINE.

LIKE ME, SHE'D BEEN TURNED AND NOW REVELED IN THE FREEDOM THAT IMMORTALITY AND POWER PROVIDED. OFFPUT BY HER HUBRIS, I REMINDED SALLY THAT AMERICA WOULD NEVER BE HOME TO THE NEGRO.



IT WAS BUILT BY MEN SUCH AS MYSELF, AND WHEN WE SURMISED THAT "ALL MEN WERE CREATED EQUAL," THE NEGRO WAS NOT FACTORED INTO THAT SENTIMENT.

SOME WOULD GIVE VOICE TO THE RAGE FOSTERED BY OPPRESSION.

BUT IN SHORT ORDER, THEY WILL BE NEUTRALIZED.

IT IS NOT BEYOND MY IMAGINATION TO SEE A FUTURE WHERE A FEW WHO PROVIDE QUALITY ENTERTAINMENT COULD ASSIMILATE, BUT MY KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICA'S TRUE UNDERBELLY TELLS ME THAT THE MASSES OF BLACK PEOPLE WILL FOREVER DWELL IN SQUALOR.

AFTER DIGESTING MY PROGNOSTICATION, SALLY REAFFIRMED HER INTENTION TO MOVE ON WITHOUT ME.

THE PROSPECT OF WALKING THROUGH ETERNITY ALONE TERRIFIED ME.

BUT I HAD NO CHOICE.

WHAT... WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

IT'S OKAY, SON... JUST STAY CALM.

JOSE... BABY... I FEEL SO... EMPTY.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY?

TELL HIM IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, HONEY.

I CAN STILL *HEAR.*

WHAT IS THIS?

THE TRUTH YOU REFUSED TO SEE. YOUR PLAN WAS ALL ABOUT OVERCOMING YOUR TEPID PLACE IN HISTORY. IT WAS DOOMED FROM THE START.

THIS IS THE REVOLUTION YOU LACKED THE COURAGE TO INITIATE. MANKIND WILL TAKE ITS PLACE BENEATH US.

BUT DEMOCRACY... RIGHTING THE WRONGS OF THE PAST... WE CONCEIVED THIS PLAN TOGETHER.

I DID WHAT THE WORLD YOU AND THOSE LIKE YOU PROGRAMMED ME TO DO. WHICH WAS TO PROVIDE SUSTENANCE TO *YOUR* IDEAS.

I HAD NO IDEA YOU FELT THIS WAY.

HOW COULD YOU WITH YOUR HEAD SO FAR UP YOUR ASS?

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

WALK AWAY, JOHN. AND IN TIME, LEARN TO LIVE IN THE NEW WORLD I'M CREATING.

WOODSTOCK, 1969.

MISSING THE ADULATION MY FORMER LIFE PROVIDED, I BECAME AN ENTERTAINER. MY BAND "TJ AND THE USAs" HAD A MODEST HIT, "NIGHTS IN MONTICELLO," THAT MADE IT TO NUMBER THIRTY-SIX ON THE BILLBOARD CHARTS.

THE CHEERS FILLED THE VOID FOR A SPELL...

...BUT SOON I FOUND THEM HOLLOW.

CONTEMPT FOLLOWED. WHERE ONCE I LUSTED FOR THEIR CHEERS, NOW I FEASTED ON THEIR SORROW.

AND THE

JUSA'S

THERE HAD TO BE MORE TO EXISTENCE THAN THIS.

BEEN WAITING ON Y'ALL.

SKREE

SEE ABBY AND 'NEM GOT YOUR BOY.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP HIM?

...IF I HADN'T RUSHED IN, THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED.

AIN'T NO RULES TO THIS SHIT.

HE'S SO YOUNG... SO MUCH HE CAN DO WITH HIS LIFE...

I WAS ABLE TO TURN BACK A GIRL, BRIANNA, SISTER TO ONE OF ABIGAIL'S CREW... BUT IT ALMOST KILLED ME...

HE GONNA WANT THAT RED JUICE SOON. JUST KNOW, THE MORE YOU GIVE HIM, THE MORE HE'S GONNA TAKE TO WHAT HE IS.

VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF CREATING A BETTER SOCIETY WAS MY RATIONALE.

THIS IS NOT REVOLUTION.

THIS IS CARNAGE.

AND IT IS NOT RIGHT.

DING DONG

Pray more, worry less
and do everything with love

GOT ENOUGH FOR ONE MORE?

FINDING NOTHING TO VALIDATE ME, I MOVED AWAY FROM THE WORLD TO CONTEMPLATE MY SITUATION.

I STUDIED THE BOOK LEFT AT MY BEDSIDE THE NIGHT I DIED

LEARNING THE UNTHINKABLE EXPANDED MY HORIZONS. IT WAS HERE UNDER A FULL MOON THAT I HAD AN EPIPHANY...

AT THIS MOMENT, THIS COUNTRY LACKS THE LEADERSHIP TO BRING A POLARIZED SOCIETY TOGETHER. I CAN DO THAT.

BUT I CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

HERE WAS BURIED
THOMAS JEFFERSON
AUTHOR OF THE
DECLARATION
OF
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE
OF THE
STATUTE OF VIRGINIA
FOR
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
AND FATHER OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

THE ONLY FAMILY I'D EVER KNOWN WAS WITH MY WIFE MARTHA AND DAUGHTERS JANE RANDOLPH AND LUCY ELIZABETH. WHEN THEY DIED, A PIECE OF ME DIED WITH THEM.

FATHER FLANNAGAN, MY FIRST SIN WAS VANITY. I REVELED IN THE PRESIDENCY AND ITS PLACING ME ABOVE ALL OTHERS.

AND THE SECOND?

MR. JEFFERSON?

MY SECOND SIN WAS RESURRECTING MY WIFE AND CHILDREN. ALTHOUGH THEIR RETURN WAS LESS THAN PRISTINE.

I'M ANNOUNCING AT THIS MOMENT MY CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. I WILL REUNITE WITH JOHN ADAMS, AND TOGETHER, WE WILL TURN THIS COUNTRY AROUND.

HE WILL MAKE A FINE VICE PRESIDENT.

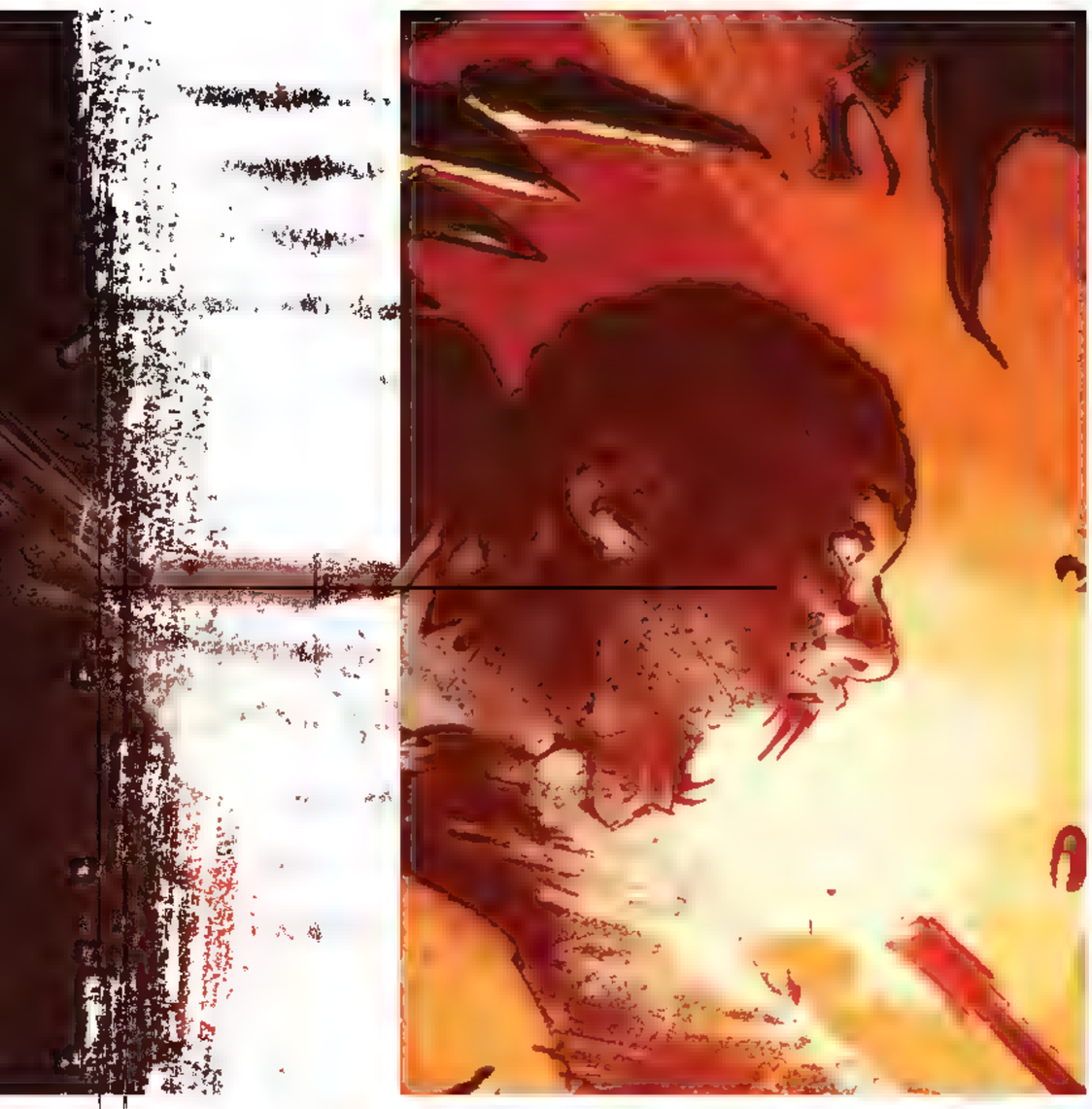
ALTHOUGH I WAS ALWAYS SMARTER.

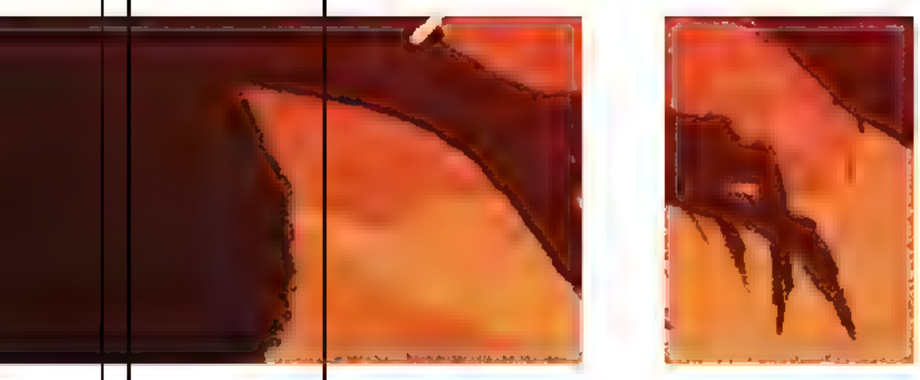
"TONIGHT, MY NAME WILL BE SYNONYMOUS WITH TYRANNY..."

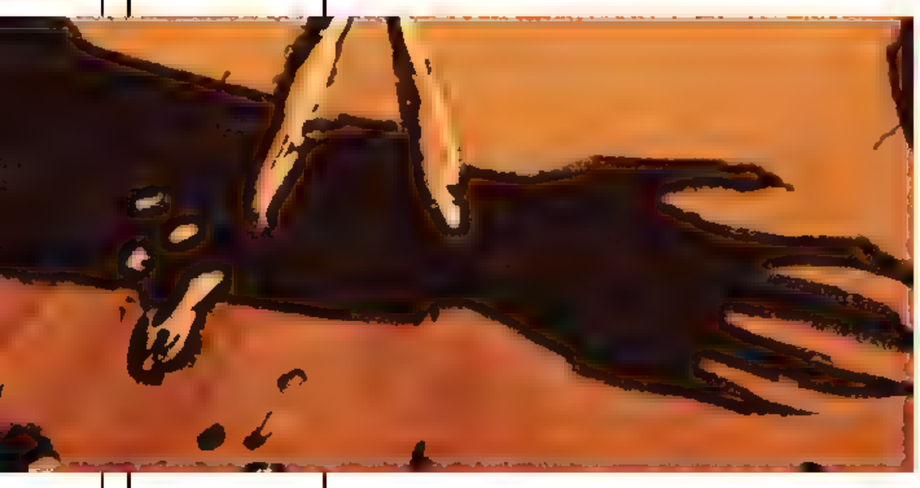
... AND THE SUN WASHED THE PAIN AWAY

Chapter II











THE WORLD REMEMBERS JOHN ADAMS AS THE SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

REGARDLESS OF HIS COMPETENCE OR LACK THEREOF, HIS PLACE IN AMERICAN HISTORY WILL STAND TIME IMMEMORIAL.

MY CLAIM TO FAME WAS WEARING HIS NAME.

THAT NARRATIVE MUST BE REVISED.

NO LONGER WILL I BE TIED TO THE MEDIOCRITY THAT WAS MY HUSBAND.

TONIGHT, MY NAME WILL BE SYNONYMOUS WITH TYRANNY...

...WITH CRUELTY...

...WITH SUFFERING...

...WITH DEATH.

THE MAN I LOVE IS DEAD.

AND THIRSTY.

JIMMY...?

HEY... BABY...

I BROUGHT YOU SOME... BLOOD.

YESSSS... THANK YOU, DEAR. THINK YOU COULD COME CLOSER? I WANT TO SEE YOU UNDER THE MOONLIGHT.

...ARE YOU OKAY, BABE?

NEVER BETTER...

WHY ARE YOU IN THE DARK?

AW... GIRL, DON'T BE S'CURED... WOULDN'T NEVER HURT YOU... I LOVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU TOO...

NEVER HURT...

NEVER EVER...

NO, SON.

WHAT WERE YOU ABOUT TO DO?

...I... I DON'T KNOW.

I BROUGHT YOU BLOOD AND YOU *STILL* WANTED TO BITE ME?

RANCID CADAVER BLOOD CAN'T STAND UP TO THE REAL THING, JOSE.

HE'S TRANSITIONING, PROBABLY BEST TO NOT BE ALONE WITH HIM UNTIL WE GET A HANDLE ON THIS THING.

I'M SORRY, JO.

COULD YOU GIVE US A MINUTE?

GLADLY.

IN ALL THESE YEARS, I NEVER SENSED THE ANGER ABIGAIL DISPLAYED TONIGHT.

TOILING AT MY SIDE FOR CENTURIES BUILT RESENTMENT WHICH SHE'S NOW UNLEASHED ONTO THE WORLD.

SUPPRESSING ONE'S GIFTS IN THE NAME OF ANOTHER IS TANTAMOUNT TO ABUSE. MORE GUILT FOR ME TO CARRY.

MR. PRESIDENT, IS IT OKAY IF I JOIN YOU?

CALL ME "JOHN," AND OF COURSE.

HOW'S YOUR NIGHT COMING?

SIGNIFICANT OTHER JUST TRIED TO KILL ME.

I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL.

thud
thump

FIND SEESAW.

ONLY IF IT MEANS I GET TO KILL HIM.

DO WITH HIM WHAT YOU WILL.

THIS IS GONNA BE HARD AS FUCK.

ONCE THE DEMON CORSON PUT ME DOWN WITH THE RIGHT SHIT, BRINGING JOHN BACK WAS EASY.

DARK ENERGY IS THE HAND PUPPET PUSHING US AROUND LIKE LIVING SHADOWS.

MINUS THE BREATHING, PISSING, SHITTING...

ALL'S WE NEED TO KEEP ON THIS RIDE IS THAT RED MEAT JUICE.

AND A OUTFIT YOU WEAR FOREVER LIKE CHARLIE BROWN.

YOUNG BOLS WOULD TRIP THEY KNEW I WAS PUTTING ALL THIS SWEAT INTO SAVING POLICE...

CAN'T REMEMBER A TIME WHEN I LOOKED INTO A COP'S EYES AND SAW ANYTHING BUT SUSPICION.

BUT IF THEM YOUNG BOLS WAS TO TRY AND CHECK, BEFORE I TOLD THEM TO KISS MY ENTIRE ASS...

I'D SCHOOL 'EM ON THE VIRTUES OF DOING THE RIGHT THING.

FUCK ALL THAT SEES IT OTHERWISE.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO TRY AND BRING YOUR DUDE BACK.

SEEMS LIKE ALL I EVER DO IS LET YOU DOWN.

DON'T START, JIMMY. WE'RE GONNA FIGURE THIS SHIT OUT AND KEEP IT MOVING.

I'M A FUCK-UP, POP, THINK IT'S CLEAR AT THIS POINT.

SON... YOU'RE...

OKAY, MAYBE YOU HAVE FUCKED UP A TIME OR TWO... OR A DOZEN... BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT.

POINT IS, YOU'RE JUST BETTER AT IT THAN MOST. HELL, YOU'RE DEAD AND STILL FUCKING UP.

NOBODY TELLS IT LIKE MY FATHER.

LITTLE LATE IN THE GAME TO TELL IT ANY OTHER WAY.

WHAT IF SEESAW CAN'T BRING ME BACK?

WE LOOK FOR ANOTHER WAY.

IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, I WANT YOU TO STAKE ME.

...KILL MY SON?

YOU'D BE SETTING ME FREE. I COULD BE WITH MA.

GOT YOUR WHOLE LIFE AHEAD OF YOU. LORD KNOWS WHAT YOU AND JOSE COULD BUILD Y'ALL GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER.

IF LIFE IS SO GREAT, WHY DIDN'T *YOU* FIGHT FOR IT? WEREN'T THAT OLD.

WHEN YOUR MOTHER DIED, SHE TOOK A PIECE OF ME WITH HER. THAT'S THE CRUEL PART OF LOVE--ATTACHMENT TO THINGS THAT LEAVE YOU. WHY I NEVER GOT A PET.

MY JOB IN THIS LIFE WAS TO LOVE, PROTECT, AND GET YOU READY TO GO OUT IN THE WORLD WITH YOUR HEAD ON STRAIGHT.

THE JOB AIN'T OVER YET.

OKAY, POP.

Y'ALL READY?

READY AS I'LL EVER BE.

KNEW THIS MANY MUFUCKAS WAS COMING, I WOULDA SOLD TICKETS.

WELL, LET'S GET ON WITH IT.

I SHOULD HAVE KILLED JOHN WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE.

JUST COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO DO IT.

WHAT WE WERE REMAINS A PART OF ME.

LIKE A SONG YOU CAN'T GET OUT OF YOUR HEAD.

TRUTH IS, I CAN NO LONGER EXIST IN A WORLD WITH JOHN ADAMS.

HE WAS A FINE HUSBAND... FATHER... BUT AS LONG AS HE EXISTS, I'LL FEEL COMPELLED TO FOLLOW HIM.

CHECK ON JUPITER.

YES, MOMMY ABIGAIL.

IN TIME, JOHN WILL SEEK ME OUT. TO MAKE THINGS A SEMBLANCE OF WHAT THEY WERE.

IT'S HIS WAY-- THAT NEED TO BE LOVED.

THAT'S THE STUFF OF HUMAN BEINGS.

FORTUNATELY, I AM NO LONGER AMONGST THEIR SIMPLE LOT.

MOMMY ABIGAIL!!!

JUPITER'S GONE!

WELL, SHIT.

THE HELL IS THAT?!

I DON'T KNOW!

SOMEBODY BETTER FIGURE THIS SHIT OUT QUICK!

THEY'RE TRYING TO STOP ME!

AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE MAGICAL OR SOMETHING? NICE TIME TO PULL A RABBIT OUT OF YOUR ASS!

MY ABILITIES WEREN'T RESURRECTED WITH ME!

THE BLUE FUCK ARE THEY DOING NOW?

ATTACKING US!

I'M LOSING FOCUS...

AHHH!!

I CAN'T DO IT.

ding dong

WHO COULD IT BE AT THIS HOUR?

OH, NO.

OH, YES!

AAAAHH!!

WHAT IN THE HELL...?

THEY PUNKED ME 'CAUSE I WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH...

...GRANDMA USED TO SAY, "YOU NEED FAITH, BOY..."

GOTTA GO BACK...

...INTO THE LIGHT.

A.D. 30/33. JERUSALEM.

MY GRANDMOTHER TOLD ME STORIES OF THE ONE THAT DIED FOR OUR SINS.

WHO SUFFERED SO THAT MANKIND COULD LIVE.

SHE LIVED HER ENTIRE LIFE WITH THE FAITH THAT THINGS WOULD IMPROVE.

I HAVE WATCHED MANY LOOK TO THE SKY IN SEARCH OF HOPE.

THREE DAYS LATER.

ALTHOUGH I NEVER UNDERSTOOD IT, I RESPECTED IT.

IN THIS MOMENT, I NEED SOMETHING STRONGER THAN FAITH. STRONGER THAN HOPE.

S'CUSE ME, MAN.

WONDERING IF I CAN GET A WORD IN BEFORE YOU ROLL OUT?

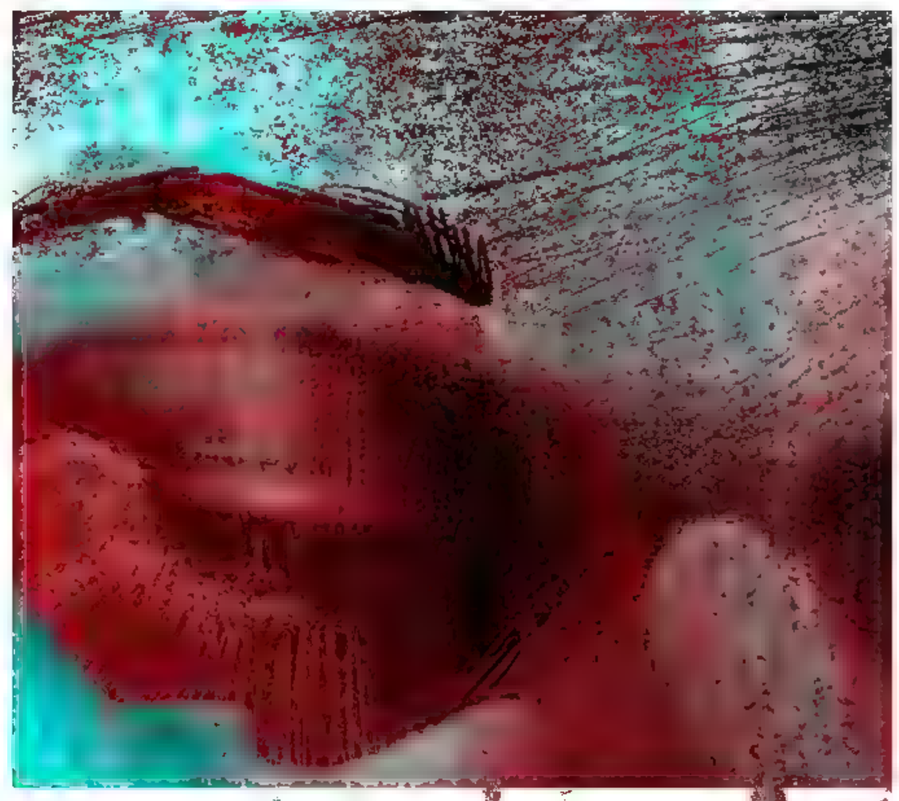
"A WAR HAS BEGUN."

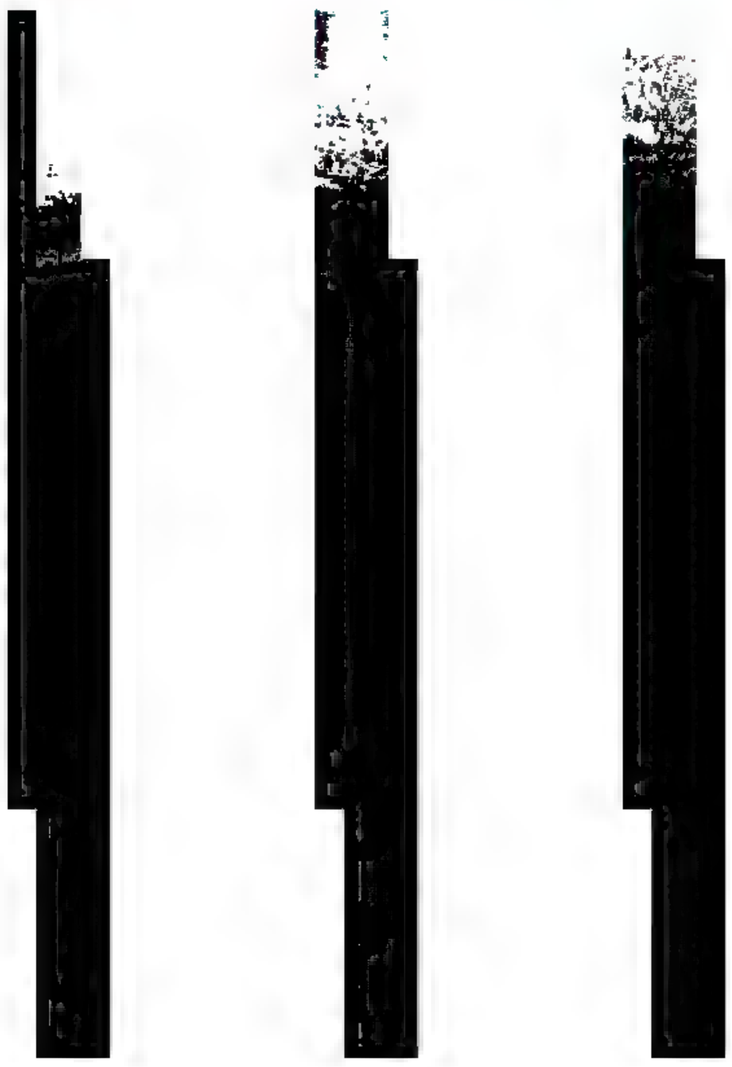
MANIFEST DESTINY

Chapter III









REACQUAINTING MYSELF WITH TODAY'S AMERICA CONJURES FEELINGS I ASSUMED WERE THINGS OF THE PAST.

IMMEDIATELY BLINDING ME FROM SENTIMENT FOR THE SOCIETY I HELPED TO CRAFT.

THAT SAID, IT'S DIFFICULT TO IGNORE THE PARALLELS BETWEEN THE WORLD I KNEW AS A HUMAN AND THE ONE IN WHICH THIS FERAL CREATURE NOW STANDS.

THE FORMER WAS SEEKING AN IDENTITY APART FROM ITS BRITISH ORIGINS.

AMERICA PROMOTES THE IDEA OF FREEDOM, YET OPERATES IN A STATE OF ECONOMIC TRIBALISM DESIGNED FOR FEAST OR FAMINE.

A TRIBE'S MEASURE OF SUCCESS IS ITS ABILITY TO SUSTAIN ITSELF. THE STRONGER PREYING UPON THE WEAK.

AND THOSE THAT HUNGER WILL ALWAYS LOOK TO THE FED WITH CONTEMPT.

AS SUCH, THERE WILL BE NO PEACE.

ALTHOUGH MY THOUGHTS SPEAK TO THE NATURE OF PHYSICAL SURVIVAL, A VERY SPECIFIC DUAL IDEOLOGY FUELS THE LOGIC OF THIS COUNTRY'S CITIZENS.

IS AMERICA TO BE A PLACE WHICH WELCOMES ALL? OR IS IT TO BE DOMINATED BY A SINGULAR MODE OF THOUGHT?

THIS QUESTION IS THE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA'S CURRENT CIVIL WAR.

THUD

IF I AM TO ONCE AGAIN BECOME THIS COUNTRY'S PRESIDENT, I MUST CHOOSE A SIDE.

WILL THE UNITED STATES BE THE GREAT MELTING POT SCHOOLCHILDREN ARE TAUGHT IN THEIR ELEMENTARY LESSONS?

OR IS IT TO BE GUIDED BY THE DESCENDANTS OF THOSE WHO CONQUERED ANY AND ALL IN CLAIMING THIS LAND?

THIS IS THE QUESTION.

AND BY SUNRISE, MY DECISION WILL BE MADE.

STAND BACK, DEMON!

IF I'M A DEMON, YOUR MAMA'S A DEMON.

JUST CAME TO HIT UP MY MANS BEFORE HE ROLLS OUT. AIN'T TRYING TO START NO TROUBLE.

DO NO HARM TO HIM.

SPEAK TO ME, SPIRIT CREATURE.

YOUR MATERIAL FORM IS ELSEWHERE. ONLY THE EVOLVED CAN SPIRITUALLY MOVE THROUGH SPACE AND TIME.

CREDIT MY "MOVING" SPIRIT TO A BOOK I WASN'T S'POSED TO READ. AS FOR MY "MATERIAL FORM," IT'S BALLED UP IN THE LIVING ROOM OF A TWO-STORY FLAT IN WEST PHILLY.

I'M HITTING YOU UP 'CAUSE MY BOY NEEDS THE POWER OF LIGHT TO GET THE MONKEY OFF HIS BACK. DARK WORLD GOT HIM HEMMED UP.

BEFORE YOU SPEAK ON IT, LET ME GET THIS OFF MY CHEST. SEEN MY GRANDMA, MAMA, DAMN NEAR EVERYBODY I KNOW PRAY TO YOU FOR HELP...

THIS AIN'T NO "GO PRAY" SITUATION. SO IF THAT'S WHAT YOU FITTIN' TO LAY ON ME, I CAN ROLL OUT NOW.

YOU ARE A MANIFESTATION OF THE DARK REALM, WHICH GIVES MY HERALDS PAUSE. BUT YOUR SOUL... THE ESSENCE OF THE FATHER... IS PURE.

SO REGARDLESS OF YOUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU, LIKE ALL, ARE WORTHY OF LOVE.

MAN, IF THAT'S TRUE, WHERE YOU BEEN?

MY PEOPLE DYING IN THE STREET. AND WE AIN'T SEEN HIDE NOR HAIR OF YOU.

NO DISRESPECT, BUT IT'S HARD TO HEAR YOU TALKIN' 'BOUT LOVE WHEN ALL I SEE IS HURT.

KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

THE LIGHT YOU SEEK AWAITS YOU. ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU SPEAK TO ALL SUCH AS I--THE ONES THE WORLD REFERS TO AS *ENLIGHTENED.*

IN THE END, I PROMISE YOU WILL DISCOVER WHERE ALL THAT YOU REQUIRE RESIDES.

SHIT.

WHERE IS SEESAW?!

SEESAW'S NOT HERE!

HE LEFT JUST A MINUTE AGO!

LIAR!

GET AWAY FROM HER!

SO WHO WAS ONCE A GREAT PRESIDENT IS NOW THE MODERN-DAY AARON BURR.

NO, DEAREST TOPPY... JUST LEARNED THE ERROR OF MY WAYS.

I HAVE TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE.

HOW DO I KNOW I'M ANY SAFER WITH YOU?

JUST GO!

ADAMS! THINK OF SOMETHING! WASN'T HE ONE OF YOUR PERSONAL GUARDS?!

PERHAPS YOUR USE OF THE PAST TENSE "WASN'T" COULD CONNECT YOUR SENSIBILITIES TO THE PRESENT REALITY OF THOSE WHO ONCE PROTECTED ME!

SMARTASS. *PERHAPS* THAT'S WHY YOUR WOMAN WHOOPED YOUR ASS.

THE OPINIONS OF THOSE WHOM POPULAR CULTURE CLAIMS TO DESPISE NOW THRIVE.

THE VOICE ONCE A WHISPER CONSIGNED TO THE SHADOWS OF SHAME, NOW SCREAMS FOR ALL TO HEAR.

NO LONGER RELEGATED TO A DUNGEON OF ANGER AND RAGE.

THIS IS THE TIGER I AM TASKED TO TAME.

"ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL."

I WROTE THOSE WORDS.

ALTHOUGH AT THE TIME OF THEIR WRITING, I OWNED OVER SIX HUNDRED HUMAN BEINGS.

THE WHOLE COMMERCE BETWEEN MASTER AND SLAVE IS A PERPETUAL EXERCISE OF THE MOST BOISTEROUS PASSIONS, THE MOST UNREMITTING DESPOTISM ON THE ONE PART, AND DEGRADING SUBMISSION ON THE OTHER.

MY AFFECTION FOR SALLY HEMINGS CAUSED ME GREAT CONFUSION. FROM BIRTH, I WAS TAUGHT TO SEE HER AS LESS THAN I, YET MY HEART YEARNED TO VIEW HER AS AN EQUAL.

MY CONSCIENCE SAYS THAT WHICH IS TRUE. REALITY SINGS ANOTHER TUNE.

SO I REACHED OUT TO ALL THE O.G.s... BUDDHA WAS FIRST. WE SAT UNDER HIS TREE TALKING 'BOUT DETACHMENT AND SHIT.

WALKED WITH ZARATHUSTRA IN THE HOT-ASS SAND. LEARNED THAT WITHIN EACH PERSON IS A BETTER PERSON.

...I MEDITATED WITH MUHAMMAD ON MOUNT HIRA.

I KEPT GOING, RAPPING WITH THIRTY / THIRTY-FIVE CATS IN ALL...

I LEARNED A LOT, BUT SOMETHING WAS MISSING.

THEM TEACHERS OPENED MY MIND TO ALL KINDS OF NEW SHIT. KIND I WISH I KNEW WHEN I WAS PUMPIN' BLOOD.

THAT SAID, YOU CAN BE WISE AS ALL GET OUT, BUT WITHOUT FOOD, A ROOF, AND LEGAL TENDER--ALL YOU GOT IN YOUR HEAD IS NOISE.

CHRIST WANTED ME TO SEE THE LIGHT ALREADY WITHIN ME. QUIET AS IT'S KEPT, I ALREADY SEEN THAT.

WHAT I NEED IS **POWER**. ENOUGH TO TURN BACK JIMMY AND STAND A CHANCE AGAINST ABIGAIL AND HER BITCH-ASS CREW.

NEED A REAL G FOR THAT.

EUROPE

GHANA

AFRICA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

HEY! Y'ALL FUCKING UP MY HOUSE!

STAY IN HERE!

DON'T TELL ME WHERE TO STAY!

DAD! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

THE FUCK'S IT LOOK LIKE?!

VAMPIRES TEARING UP MY HOUSE, WE GETTING OUR ASSES KICKED, ALL THE WHILE SEESAW'S LYING ON THE GODDAMN FLOOR TAKING A NAP.

IT APPEARS YOU'VE SUFFERED IN MY ABSENCE.

LOST AN ARM AND ONE SIDE OF MY GOOD LOOKS, BUT AT LEAST I REMAIN A PATRIOT.

NOW, TELL ME WHERE SEESAW IS OR YOUR RETURN TO HELL WILL BE SWIFT.

MY EGO DIED LONG AGO... AS SUCH, I NO LONGER FEAR NOT EXISTING.

THAT'LL MAKE THIS EASY, THEN.

JOHN ADAMS WILL MAKE A FINE VICE PRESIDENT.

WELCOME TO
Pennsylva
pursue your happ

BOTH OF US WERE PRESENT AT THE BIRTH OF THIS NATION AND WE HAVE SEEN UP CLOSE WHAT IT'S BECOME.

Pennsylvania
pursue your happiness

A WAR HAS BEGUN.

VICTORY WILL BE HAD WITH MY LEADERSHIP...

CRUNCH
SQUISH

H... HELLO... THOMAS...

JUPITER...?

Yesssss...

TELL ME WHERE HE IS!

WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

YOU ACT LIKE I DON'T KNOW THAT!

ALTHOUGH RIGHT ABOUT NOW, I'M THINKING DEATH AIN'T THE WORST THING...

GHANA, WEST AFRICA.

I'M TIRED OF PUTTING FAITH IN THINGS THAT AIN'T GOT FAITH IN ME.

IF I'M GONNA WORSHIP A GOD, I WANT IT TO BE ONE THAT'S GOT MY BACK.

THAT **FEELS** THE TEARS I CRY.

THAT LOOKS LIKE **ME.**

I NEED YOU.

FOR ONE THING IN PARTICULAR, AND ANOTHER IN GENERAL.

I NEED TO KNOW THAT THERE'S HOPE IN THIS UNIVERSE FOR ME AND MINE.

I NEED A GOD THAT'S DOWN FOR WHATEVER...

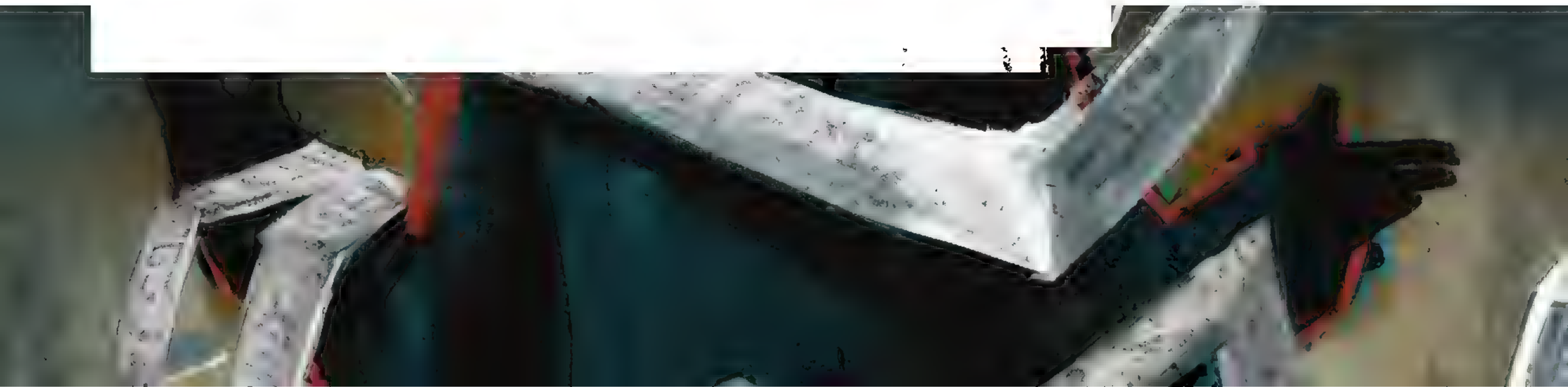

I NEED ANANSI--
THE SPIDER GOD!



"SO YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE GOD?"

HAVE A LITTLE TALK WITH GOD

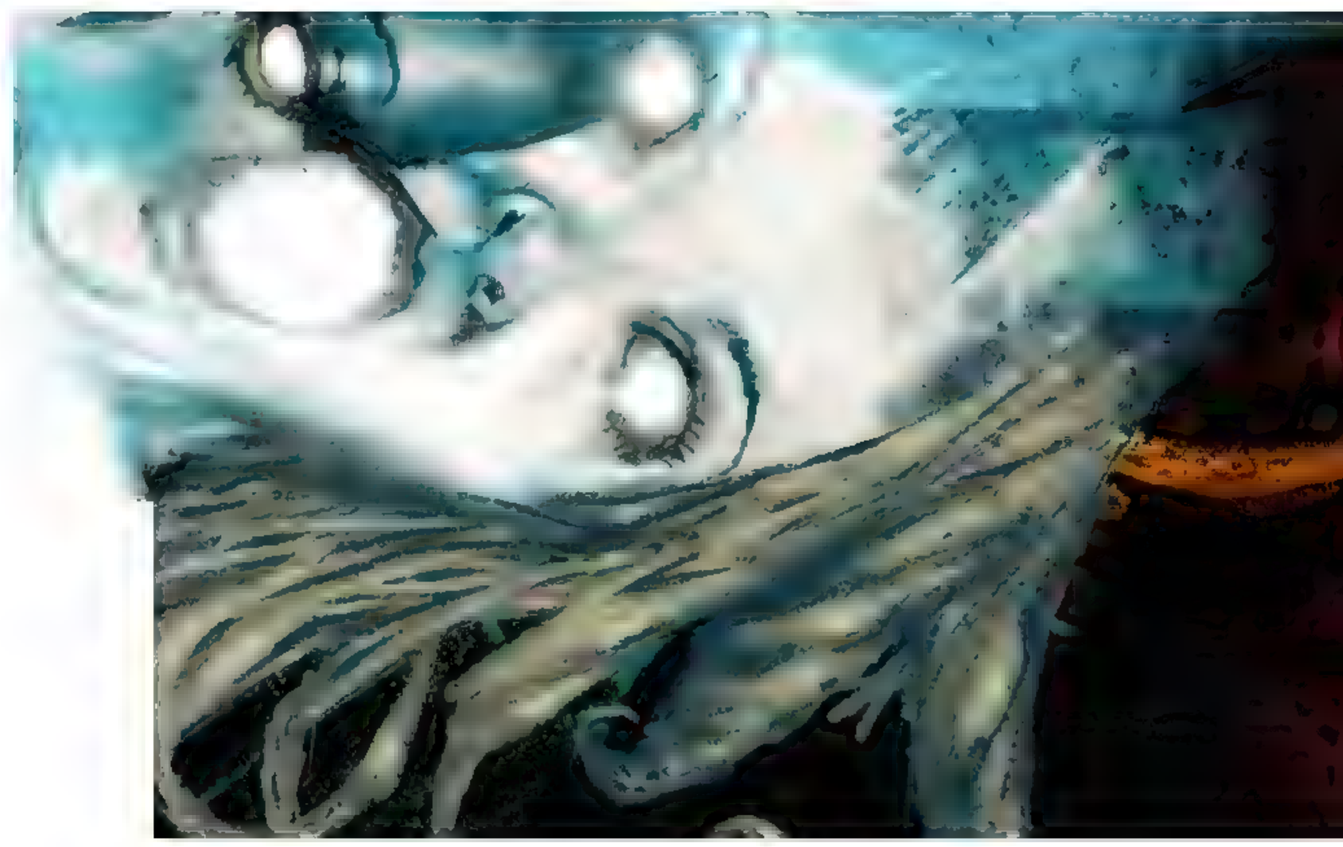
Chapter IV







IV



JUPITER... YOU'VE DESTROYED MY FAMILY...

WHY WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?

WHY? YOU'RE ASKING ME WHY I WOULD DESTROY WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

WE'VE BEEN APART FOR SO LONG... I'D HOPED FOR PERHAPS A HUG OR SOME GESTURE OF SENTIMENT, INSTEAD, YOU GREET ME WITH RAGE?

THOMAS! YOU SOLD MY FAMILY! MY CHILDREN!

THAT WAS OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO! THEY'VE DIED AND MOVED ON AND YOU'RE STILL ANGRY?

HOW CAN YOU BE SO OBTUSE?

BECAUSE *YOU* ARE BEING QUITE UNREASONABLE, JUPITER. BUT IF IT'S VIOLENCE YOU DESIRE...

SO BE IT!

FOR SO LONG I PRAYED THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN I COULD BE THE INSTRUMENT OF YOUR SUFFERING.

ONE WOULD THINK YOU'D HAVE MADE BETTER USE OF YOUR TIME.

ALLOWING THAT UNFORTUNATE TRANSACTION TO PLAY TO YOUR LOWER SELF. I'M SO DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, JUPITER.

WE WERE FRIENDS FOR GOD'S SAKE!

FRIENDS?! I WAS YOUR *SLAVE!*

A REALITY OF THE TIMES. NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS.

IN SERVITUDE, I MADE YOUR LIFE BETTER...

WHILE I WAS STRIPPED OF MY HUMANITY, DIGNITY...

I CARRY THE PAIN OF THAT DAY TO THIS MOMENT.

BECAUSE OF *YOU!*

AHHH!

I'M SITTING HERE MINDING MY BUSINESS, SUNNING ON THIS TREE, AND YOU WANT TO FUCK UP MY PEACE IN THE NAME OF HELPING FIX SOME BULLSHIT IN AMERICA?

PHILLY, TO BE EXACT.

EVEN WORSE.

BROTHER, BROTHER, BROTHER... MAY I SUGGEST A BETTER USE OF YOUR TIME? AMERICA IS FUCKED.

VISITED TWICE AND THE SECOND TIME WAS WORSE THAN THE FIRST. REMEMBER IT LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY...

"IT'S 1915, I'M SITTING IN A THEATER WATCHING WHAT SOME REFER TO AS A MASTERPIECE OF CINEMA! OH, IT WAS A BIRTH OF A NATION, ALL RIGHT. GOT MY WORSHIPERS RUNNING FROM NEANDERTHALS IN BEDSHEETS. ALL IN THE NAME OF CREATING A NARRATIVE THAT WOULD HAUNT THEM TO THIS DAY..."

ME

WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO HELP A COUNTRY THAT COULD GIVE TWO SHITS ABOUT YOU?

YOU'RE DEAD NOW, BUT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN YOU BREATHED AIR AND DRANK POP. WHICH MAKES ME WONDER...

SEEMS YOU NEED SOME HELP YOURSELF IF THEM CANINES ARE AN INDICATOR. UNLESS YOU'RE PART GERMAN SHEPHERD.

I AIN'T THINK I WAS GONNA LIVE PAST TWENTY, SO A CAT OFFERING ME ***FOREVER*** AIN'T SOMETHING TO LOOK AWAY FROM. THESE TEETH COME WITH? SO BE IT.

YEAH, I MISS THE SUN, BUT WHEN THE MOON IS FULL, I SOAK IN THE REFLECTION LIKE IT WAS SUMMERTIME IN THE PARK. BUT TO WHAT YOU SAYING, I GOT THIS...

WHEN I WENT TO HELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE?

ICE WATER?

WINDOWS.

'CAUSE ALL THEY WANT YOU TO SEE IS SUFFERING.

A WINDOW MIGHT GIVE THE THING THEY DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE...

HOPE.

YOU LOOKING AT THE BAD--I'M LOOKING AT THE GOOD.

AND AS ONE OF YOUR WORSHIPERS, I'M ASKING FOR YOUR HELP.

FUNNY HOW MU'FUCKAS BECOME ***WORSHIPERS*** WHEN THEY NEED SOMETHING...

YOU ALL RIGHT, SEESAW.

MINUTE BACK YOU SAID YOU BEEN TO AMERICA TWICE.

WANNA HEAR ABOUT THAT OR WOULD YOU PREFER WE GET TO WORK?

LET'S GET TO IT.

THOUGHT SO.

NICE HOUSE.

BUT GODDAMN DO Y'ALL NEED SOME PEST CONTROL!

CAN YOU STOP THEM?

BROTHER, I'M A *GOD*.

THE PAIN YOU FEEL IS ***NOTHING*** COMPARED TO WHAT I'VE CARRIED FOR CENTURIES!

JUPITER, I... I'M SORRY...

WE WERE BORN INTO A SYSTEM AND ACTED AS THOSE IN OUR NATION DID.

I DID NOT CREATE SLAVERY, JUPITER...

...IN MY OWN WAY, I TRIED TO STOP IT... IT WAS WRONG...

...I WAS WRONG.

I REMEMBER YOU BEING A MAN OF FAITH. YOUR GOD IS ONE OF FORGIVENESS.

MIGHT THERE BE A PLACE IN YOUR HEART TO FORGIVE HE WHOM YOU SAW AS A BROTHER?

WITH MY FAMILY GONE, ***YOU*** ARE ALL I HAVE LEFT...

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

HE WITH WHOM I WALKED FROM BOY TO MAN. I GAVE ALL THAT I HAD IN THE NAME OF ***YOUR*** SELF-ACTUALIZATION.

I LOVED YOU THEN...

I LOVE YOU...

STILL.

THAT FROM THE DARK REALM MUST KNEEL TO THE POWER OF THE LIGHT.

TEVIN!

I KNEW YOU WERE HERE!

COULDN'T WAIT TO GET YOUR BITCH ASS BEAT DOWN ONE LAST TIME, *HUH?*

OKAY, I'M CONFUSED. WHO IS ON OUR SIDE AND WHO AM I BLASTING TO HELL? 'CAUSE EVERYBODY IN THIS PIECE GOT LONG TEETH.

THESE ONES HERE? TIME FOR ALL OF THEM TO GET UP OUT THE CLUB.

THEM? THEY MY PEOPLES...

PLEASE SEND THIS MU'FUCKA TO THE HOTTEST PLACE IN HELL.

KRSH

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME TO Y'ALL'S HOUSES AND ACT A FOOL.

THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT DOESN'T WANT TO MAKE IT OUT OF HERE ALIVE.

MY LIFE WAS A MESS BEFORE ALL OF THIS AND I DON'T SEE HOW IT'S GOING TO GET BETTER ANYTIME SOON...

BUT THERE'S ANOTHER PART THAT WANTS TO LIVE. NOT FOR ME...

BUT... FOR THE CHILD GROWING INSIDE OF ME. A CHILD WHOSE FATHER IS A VAMPIRE AND TRIED TO KILL ME AN HOUR AGO...

OH, GOD...

IT'S OVER, BABY.

LETT'S

SEESAW IS STILL ALIVE.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

I DON'T KNOW.

WANT TO HEAR MY PLANS TO BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT?

NOT RIGHT NOW.

THE SUN WILL BE COMING UP SOON. WE SHOULD SEEK SHELTER.

I KNOW WHERE WE CAN GO.

WHERE'S THAT?

HOME.

WELCOME TO

Pennsylva

pursue your hap

SO YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE GOD?

THE CYNICISM IN YOUR VOICE IS INSULTING.

BET IF I LOOKED LIKE BRAD PITT YOU'D BE KISSING MY FEET AND OFFERING UP YOUR FIRST BORN.

LOOK, I'M JUST TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF ALL THIS. NO OFFENSE INTENDED.

UM HM.

WE NEED HELP BRINGING JIMMY BACK TO THE WORLD.

I'M GOING TO SAY THIS ***ONE*** MORE TIME--ALL OF Y'ALL EXCEPT OL' GIRL OVER THERE GOT THE DARK ***DARK*** RUNNING THROUGH YOU. WHY JUST HIM TRYING TO GET RIGHT?

I'VE BEEN DEAD LONGER THAN I'VE BEEN ALIVE. THIS IS WHAT I KNOW.

INTERESTING. BEFORE THIS IS OVER, I'M GONNA COME BACK TO YOU.

AND YOU?

LIVED MY LIFE. ALTHOUGH WHEN MY WIFE DIED, SHE TOOK A PIECE OF ME WITH HER. ONLY REASON I'M HERE IS FOR MY SON... TO SEE HIM GET ON TRACK.

TOUCHING.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO *YOU.*

NOT SURE WHY I WANT TO LIVE. NOT LIKE I'M MAKING SOME GLOWING CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD...

HE WOULD MAKE A HORRIBLE SALESMAN.

...THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T--IF I HAD MORE TIME.

IF WE DIDN'T HAVE COMPANY, I'D POP YOU UPSIDE THE HEAD.

I'M SORRY, SON, BUT YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT.

BECAUSE I DID NOT CLIMB DOWN FROM MY COMFORTABLE TREE 'CAUSE OF WHAT YOU THINK YOU ONE DAY MIGHT WANT TO DO.

HELL, IF THAT WAS ALL IT TOOK, I'D RESURRECT MARTIN LUTHER KING, MOTHER TERESA, PRINCE...

YES! THE HUMAN SPEAKS! WHAT SAY YOU, MY LOVELY CUBAN BLOOD PUMPER?

HE NEEDS TO LIVE BECAUSE HE'S THE FATHER OF OUR UNBORN CHILD.

GUESS IT'D BE WRONG OF ME TO ADD NEGATIVITY TO THIS JOYFUL MOMENT.

DON'T BE JEALOUS, BUT I'M GONNA GO WATCH THE SUNRISE.

THAT SECOND TIME YOU WERE IN AMERICA?

"IN '68, AFTER DR. KING DIED. I WATCHED YOUR NATION BURN. BUT IT WASN'T THAT THAT BOTHERED ME. I SAW A CHILD WATCHING THE FIRE. THERE WERE TEARS IN HIS EYES. HE WAS TREMBLING. I WANTED TO COMFORT HIM BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT GODS DO, RIGHT?

"WHEN I GOT TO HIM, I LOOKED DOWN AND SAW HIS DOG, BURNED TO DEATH AT HIS FEET. IF EVER I WAS TO UNDO A THING, THAT WOULD'VE BEEN THE TIME.

"BUT THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO. BOTH FOR THE PAIN HE FELT AND THE PAIN THE FUTURE WOULD BRING. VOWED NEVER TO COME TO AMERICA AGAIN."

BUT HERE YOU ARE.

I CAN'T BRING BACK YOUR FRIEND, BUT I CAN TELL YOU A WAY TO TRY.

JUST KNOW, HE MAY NOT MAKE IT.

WILLING TO TAKE THAT CHANCE.

YOU SHOULD GO INSIDE NOW.

I SHOULD BE PRESIDENT.

YOU HAVE NO POLITICAL EXPERIENCE.

I RAISED A FAMILY OF POLITICIANS, INCLUDING A SON THAT SERVED TWO TERMS AS PRESIDENT.

THE AMBITIOUS FIRST LADY.

THE BITCH THAT WILL RIP OFF YOUR HEAD IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

PERHAPS WE CAN MAKE A DEAL.

"COMING BACK WAS A MISTAKE... I ONLY REMEMBERED THE GOOD, BUT THE BAD IS SO MUCH WORSE."

TO MAKE MAN

Chapter V

V





IN THE CIVIL WAR, I SAW PEOPLE DYING BY THE DOZENS EVERY DAY. SINCE THEY MET THEIR DEMISE ON THE BATTLEFIELD, THERE WAS SOME SENSE OF HONOR.

THERE IS NO HONOR IN THIS.

THE NATIONAL GUARD HAS QUARANTINED THE CITY. NO ONE IN OR OUT. INTERNET AND POWER HAVE BEEN DOWN FOR DAYS... HOW LONG CAN THIS GO ON?

KEEP TALKING TO YOURSELF, FOLKS GONNA SAY YOU TRIPPIN'.

SEESAW!

MISSED YOU, BRIANNA.

THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I NEED TO TELL YOU...

TALK TO ME, BABY GIRL.

COMING BACK WAS A MISTAKE... I ONLY REMEMBERED THE GOOD, BUT THE BAD IS SO MUCH WORSE.

"AND I'M NOT TALKING JUST ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW. PEOPLE ARE ONLY CONCERNED WITH STATUS AND VALIDATION. HURTING ONE ANOTHER IN THE NAME OF GETTING AHEAD. I WANTED TO BE A HUMAN AGAIN BECAUSE I WANTED LOVE. THERE IS NO LOVE HERE.

"SEESAW, WE HAD A ***FAMILY***. I HAD MY SISTER ***BRITTANY***-- WE CARED ABOUT EACH OTHER."

THINGS DONE CHANGED. ME AND JOHN SWITCHED UP, SUNNY'S DEAD FOR REAL, TOPPY BUGGIN' FROM TAKING ALL THEM Ls... AND SAD TO SAY, AIN'T NO COMING BACK FOR BRITTANY.

WHATEVER THE SITUATION IS, IT'S BETTER THAN THIS. I NEED TO BE A VAMPIRE AGAIN.

CAN'T HELP YOU.

BUT I DO NEED YOUR BLOOD.

HELPING ONE OF MY BOYS COME BACK TO THE LIGHT.

SO YOU'LL HELP THEM BUT NOT ME? WE WERE FAMILY, SEESAW... *FAMILY.*

STILL IS.

THEN HOW CAN YOU LEAVE ME LIKE THIS?

WHAT I TELL YOU WHEN YOU FIRST SAID YOU WANTED BACK IN LIFE?

"SHIT AIN'T NO STRAIGHT LINE." SO BEFORE YOU GO THROWING IN THE TOWEL, REMEMBER, THE SUN WILL RISE. COULD BRING A BETTER DAY.

FROM WHAT I HEAR.

I'LL GIVE YOU MY BLOOD, BUT ONLY IF YOU PROMISE TO COME BACK WHEN THIS IS OVER. AND IF THINGS HAVEN'T GOTTEN BETTER, YOU HAVE TO HELP ME...

AIGHT.

DAMN SHAME.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

ROBERT NEVILLE'S BEEN MY NEIGHBOR FOR THIRTY YEARS. OUR FAMILIES BARBECUED IN THE SUMMER. LOST HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER RIGHT BEFORE I BIT THE DUST.

"NOW, HE VENTURES OUT--EVERY DAY. GETTING WOOD TO COVER THE DOORS AND WINDOWS... AND EVERY NIGHT THEM BLOODSUCKERS TEAR IT DOWN TRYING TO GET IN."

THINK AT SOME POINT HE'LL GIVE UP?

NO...

ROBERT NEVILLE IS LEGEND.

I'M SURE MR. NEVILLE ISN'T THE ONLY THING ON YOUR MIND.

YOU'RE NO DOUBT REFERRING TO MY SON WHO'S IN THE OTHER ROOM FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE.

I FEEL SO HELPLESS.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

WE'LL FIGURE THIS OUT. GOTTA GIVE MY GRANDCHILD A FIGHTING CHANCE IN THIS WORLD.

CAN EITHER OF US BE SURE THERE'LL BE A WORLD LEFT TO FIGHT FOR?

ALL MY FAMILY HAS EVER KNOWN IS DYSFUNCTION. BEFORE I RETURN TO THE GRAVE, I'D HOPED TO BREAK THE CYCLE. BUT IT RUNS SO DEEP...

WHERE'D YOU COP THE RED RED?

SISTER OF ONE OF ABIGAIL'S GOONS... FIGURED OL' JIMMY HERE WOULD NEED HIS STRENGTH FOR THE FIGHT TO COME.

THOUGHT YOU SAID I SHOULD STEER CLEAR OF DRINKING BLOOD.

THAT THERE GOT A UNIQUE MOJO. HUMAN PROPERTIES WITH DARK ENERGY CREEPIN' ON THE LOW.

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE A DISEASE IN REMISSION.

AIN'T FAR FROM THE TRUTH.

WHAT NOW?

NOW YOU FIGURE OUT WHETHER YOU'RE GONNA LET THE LIGHT SHINE IN OR STAY CREEPING IN THE SHADOWS.

AND I DO THAT HOW, EXACTLY?

BY GOING BACK TO YOUR BIRTH IN THE UNIVERSE. ONCE THERE, ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS FIND YOUR WAY HOME.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

YOU WILL.

GOT TWENTY ON YOU GETTIN' THIS DONE.

AND I WANTS MY MONEY.

WE HAVE RAVAGED THE SUBURBS, BUT THE REAL WORK STARTS NOW. HUMANS FROM THE CITY ARE HARDER, TOUGHER... THEY'LL RESIST.

VICTORY WILL REQUIRE A FOCUSED, UNRELENTING ASSAULT.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SINCE OUR ATTACK IS LIMITED BY SUNLIGHT, I'D SAY WE HAVE TO MOVE IN TWELVE, MAYBE FOURTEEN-HOUR INTERVALS.

ALL I NEED IS DARKNESS. THEIR HOMES WILL PROVIDE THE SHADE REQUIRED TO CONTINUE OUR CHARGE. WHICH WILL NOT CEASE UNTIL EVERY CITIZEN OF PHILADELPHIA HAS EITHER JOINED OUR LOT OR FILLED OUR BELLIES WITH BLOOD.

YOU WILL MAKE A FINE MISTRESS OF DEFENSE IN MY ADMINISTRATION.

ONCE MANKIND IS COMPLETELY UNDER MY COMMAND, I WILL DECIDE MY ROLE IN THE NEW WORLD.

YOU, DEAREST THOMAS, WILL PLAY NO PART IN THAT DECISION.

"SOULS ARE ETERNAL.

"THEY EXIST WITH NO DESIGNATION...

"GODS, DEVILS, SAINTS, AND SINNERS ARE BUT STARDUST...

"VIBRATION IS THE LIVING FORCE, STREAMING ENERGY THROUGH EVERY PARTICLE OF SPIRIT MATTER.

"HERE, THERE IS ONLY SERENITY AND CONNECTION.

"BECAUSE IN THE UNIVERSE, THE ESSENCE OF ALL IS ONE."

"THIS IS NOT THE CASE IN THE TANGIBLE WORLD.

"WHERE THERE IS FLESH AND BREATH, BUT ALSO SEPARATION.

"A CONSTRUCT THAT BEGAN MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO WITH A CLEAR PURPOSE IN MIND...

"...TO MERGE MIND AND SPIRIT IN THE NAME OF CREATING AN ENLIGHTENED BEING REPRESENTATIVE OF BOTH THE ASTRAL AND PHYSICAL PLANES OF EXISTENCE.

"AS HUMANS WORKED THROUGH THEIR CORPOREAL DEVELOPMENT, THE DARK REALM WATCHED..."

"WAITING FOR THE MIND TO DEVELOP THE EGO. FOR IN THAT, THE SPIRIT REALM CAN BE FORGOTTEN. THERE IS ONLY WHAT THE EYES SEE AND MIND BELIEVES.

"IN SHORT ORDER, FEAR IS BORN, MANIFESTING IN ANGER, CRUELTY, AND CONFLICT.

ARBEIT MACHT FREI

"PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT IS STUNTED IN THE NAME OF CONQUERING LANDS AND THE ACQUISITION OF POWER...

"ALL TO THE APPLAUSE OF THE DARK REALM."

MY FATHER WAS A HARD MAN.

"ANY SLIGHT WOULD PROVOKE HIM TO ANGER.

"I TRIED EVERYTHING I COULD DO TO MAKE HIM PROUD OF ME...

"BUT NOTHING WORKED.

"WHEN HE LEFT IN THE MORNINGS, I PRAYED HE'D NEVER COME HOME."

"BUT HE ALWAYS DID."

I HATED MY FATHER.

"WHEN HE DIED, I THOUGHT THE BAD MEMORIES WOULD DIE WITH HIM.

"BUT MEMORIES DON'T DIE. THEY FADE INTO THE SUBCONSCIOUS, GUIDING ONE'S THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS.

"I PROMISED MYSELF I'D NEVER BE THE FATHER TO MY CHILD THAT MY FATHER WAS TO ME.

"I BROKE THAT PROMISE."

THIS DARK REALM... YOU TALKIN' 'BOUT HELL, RIGHT?

WHAT YOU REFER TO AS HELL IS NOTHING BUT A CONCENTRATED DOSE OF DARK ENERGY.

"THE DARK REALM HATES MANKIND, SO IT LOOKS TO DISTORT IT. MONSTERS BOTH REAL AND IMAGINED ARE A TESTAMENT TO SAID HATRED."

THE STATE OF YOU, YOUNG JIMMY, HIS FATHER, AND MUCH OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA IS THE EVOLUTION OF THE HATRED HELD BY THOSE INTENT ON DESTROYING MANKIND-- ITS COMMITMENT.

THIS COMMITMENT... WHO'S BEHIND IT?

FINALLY, YOU ASK THE RIGHT QUESTION.

WHO ARE YOU?

THE CREATURE YOU WISH YOU HAD THE COURAGE TO BE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU'RE WEAK... SOFT... YOU BRING SHAME TO YOUR FAMILY.

YOU KNOW... THAT LOOK OF SHAME IN YOUR FATHER'S EYES WHENEVER HE SEES YOU. HIS GREATEST FAILURE...

AND LET'S NOT SPEAK ON YOUR MOTHER...

DON'T YOU TALK ABOUT MY MOTHER!!

THE DEEPEST GUILT I FEEL IS THAT I PASSED MY ANGER AND PAIN DOWN TO MY SON.

IT'S THE WORST THING A PARENT CAN DO TO A CHILD.

THAT HURT BLINDS THEM TO THE BEAUTY OF THEMSELVES, REPLACING IT WITH INSECURITY AND DOUBT.

I HURT JIMMY.

"I SEE THE RAGE IN HIS EYES.

"IT'S THE ANGER OF A MAN WHO WANTS TO BE HAPPY BUT DOESN'T BELIEVE HE'S WORTHY OF SUCH.

"THE CRUEL IRONY IS THAT WHATEVER MY MISTAKES WERE, IT'S ON HIM NOW TO DECIDE WHO AND WHAT HE WANTS TO BE."

"FOREVER THE CHILD CURSED BY TRAUMA...

"OR WILL HE REALIZE THAT THE HURT WITHIN HIM CAN BE HEALED?

"BUT ONLY IF HE MAKES PEACE WITH HIMSELF...

"...AND WALKS AWAY FROM THAT DARK THING THAT RESIDES IN ALL OF US."

ANYTHING?

NOT YET.

WISH HE'D HURRY HIS ASS UP. STARZ IS RUNNING AN *AMERICAN GODS* MARATHON. I JUST LOVE ME SOME ORLANDO JONES.

WHERE YOU BEEN?

TAKING A STROLL AMONGST THE CARNAGE. THINGS HAVE WORSENED.

JIMMY? BABY...

ARE YOU OKAY, SON?

SORRY TO MESS UP YOUR FLOOR, POP.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. JUST HAPPY TO HAVE MY BOY BACK.

SOMETHING WAS UP WITH THAT BLOOD, *HUH?*

I WANT MY TWENTY BUCKS.

NOT TRYING TO MESS UP THIS LOVING MOMENT, BUT SOMETHING I SHOULD TELL Y'ALL.

THIS VAMPIRE THING IS BIGGER THAN JUST SOME PRESIDENTS TRYING TO GET AMERICA STRAIGHT.

YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE A PAWN IN THE BIGGEST GAME OF CHESS THIS UNIVERSE HAS EVER PLAYED.

"IN THE SO-CALLED BOOKS OF GOD, MANY SPEAK TO A FINAL CONFLICT, OR ARMAGEDDON, IF YOU WILL.

"THIS IS THAT TIME.

"AND IT BEGINS HERE..."

MAGE

"IN THE STREETS OF PHILADELPHIA.

"THE INNOCENTS WILL REMAIN TUCKED AWAY, BUT THEY ARE NOT SAFE.

"BECAUSE IN WAR, NO ONE IS SAFE.

"NO ONE."



"THIS IS THE RECKONING PROPHESIED EONS AGO."

THE END OF THINGS...

Chapter VI

VI



GUILT IS A POWERFUL EMOTION.

THE NEVER-ENDING FIRE TO A SOUL IN SEARCH OF PEACE.

DID I TRULY THINK A NEW SYSTEM WOULD CHANGE THIS SOCIETY FOR THE BETTER?

OR WAS THAT JUST THE LIE I TOLD MYSELF TO JUSTIFY MY ACTIONS?

A RATIONALIZATION TO JUSTIFY MY PRESIDENCY LACKING THE HISTORICAL IMPACT OF MY CONTEMPORARIES.

PREVENTING MY HAVING BECOME A FOOTNOTE IN THE SHIFTING SANDS OF POLITICAL TIME?

PERHAPS IT'S THE REVELATION THAT MY WIFE VIEWED ME AS AN OBSTACLE TO HER SELF-ACTUALIZATION?

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M SHORT...

REGARDLESS, MY ACTIONS ARE AT THE HEART OF WHY THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA BURNS TONIGHT.

AND IF TONIGHT IS TRULY TO BE THE LAST OF NIGHTS FOR THIS CITY THAT I LOVE...

...I MUST DIE FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THE PEOPLE.

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T NEED ANYTHING?

I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED RIGHT HERE.

LAST TIME YOU SAID THAT YOU TRIED TO SUCK MY BLOOD.

AND YOU DIDN'T RUN FOR THE HILLS.

BECAUSE PEOPLE THAT TRULY LOVE EACH OTHER DON'T RUN WHEN THINGS GET TOUGH.

WHAT?

BACK IN BALTIMORE, BEFORE POP DIED, I WAS IN A RELATIONSHIP. HER NAME IS NITA HAWES... I NEVER SAID GOODBYE... I JUST LEFT.

WELL, THAT'S FUCKED UP.

IT WAS. GUESS WHEN I DECIDED TO STAY IN PHILLY... THEN YOU AND ME... IT WAS JUST EASIER TO GHOST THAN SAY GOODBYE.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE FEELING GUILTY.

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE OF WHERE YOU COME FROM IN THE UNIVERSE CAN HAVE THAT KIND OF EFFECT ON A GUY.

SO... WHILE YOU'RE SITTING HERE NEXT TO THE WOMAN WHO LOVES YOU AND IS CARRYING YOUR BABY, YOU'RE CONSIDERING APOLOGIZING TO YOUR EX?

NO, NO... JUST WISHING I WAS MORE LIKE POP. A STRAIGHT SHOOTER.

NOT ALWAYS THE BEST THING.

ONE OF MY BIGGEST REGRETS IS NOT THINKING BEFORE I SPOKE.

SOME OF THE THINGS I SAID TO YOU AS A CHILD, TO YOUR MOTHER WHO ONLY WANTED THE BEST FOR ME--FOR US... WERE THE WORDS OF A MAN IN PAIN.

I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL.

CAN'T YOU STOP THIS?

I CAN, BUT I WON'T.

PEOPLE ARE DYING DOWN THERE, DUDE. ONES YOU SAY YOU CARE ABOUT.

I DON'T JUST CARE ABOUT THEM, I LOVE THEM.

"BUT LOVE CAN'T OVERRIDE FREE WILL.

"THE DARK REALM STOKES THE FIRE, BUT HUMANITY HAS CHOSEN TO FAN ITS FLAMES."

STAND IN THE LIGHT.

THIS IS THE PUREST OF EXHILARATION.

WE, THE UNDEAD, ARE ON THE PRECIPICE OF VICTORY...

IN MY TIME, THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR WOMEN ON THE BATTLEFIELD. NOW, NOT ONLY DO I FIGHT, BUT I **LEAD**.

TONIGHT, PHILADELPHIA FALLS...

TOMORROW, AMERICA WILL FOLLOW IN KIND.

I'D LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN TO BE A GRANDFATHER TO THIS CHILD.

BUT THE COP IN ME WON'T ALLOW INNOCENT PEOPLE TO DIE WHILE I DO NOTHING.

SO MANY TIMES I PUT THE JOB BEFORE YOU AND YOUR MOTHER. THAT WAS WRONG.

BUT IF I DON'T STAND UP NOW, MY ENTIRE LIFE WON'T MEAN A DAMNED THING.

WE ARE ALL, OR WERE, LAW ENFORCEMENT, SO I GET IT.

THIS CHILD WILL KNOW WHO ITS GRANDFATHER WAS...

AND WHO ITS GRANDMOTHER WAS.

I NEED YOU TWO TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF DYSFUNCTION IN THIS FAMILY. I REALIZE IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE, ESPECIALLY IN A WORLD THAT'S LOST ITS MIND. BUT... PLEASE LOVE THIS CHILD IN A WAY I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO LOVE YOU.

WE WILL.

PROMISE.

WELL, I GOTTA GO. LEARNED A LOT, THOUGH, SO I HAVE TO THANK YOU FOR THAT.

GO? WHEN THE SHIT GETS THICK? WHAT KIND OF GOD IS THAT?

ONE WHO KNOWS WHERE BEST TO PLACE HIS TALENTS.

Y'ALL 'BOUT TO GO TO WAR. YOU MAY WIN OR LOSE, BUT EITHER WAY, IT'S JUST ONE BATTLE.

EASY TO SAY ON YOUR WAY OUT THE DOOR...

WITH HUMANITY OUT OF THE WAY AND THE UNDEAD AT THE WHEEL, THAT'S THE EASIEST PATH TO GLORY.

IN OUR SHORT TIME TOGETHER, I'VE COME TO RESPECT YOU FOLKS.

YAY.

IN YOUR GOOD BOOK, THE WORD SAYS, "THE LORD MOVES IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS," CORRECT?

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, BUT IF I NEVER HEAR ANOTHER WORD FROM A DEITY, I'M GOOD.

I'LL ONLY BURDEN YOU WITH A FEW MORE. THERE ARE FORCES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT CAN AID YOUR BATTLE TONIGHT.

THEN HOW ABOUT YOU STOP JERKING MY DICK AND GIVE THEM TO US?

ALL GOOD THINGS...

...TO THOSE THAT WAIT.

THAT'S WHY I'M STICKING WITH JESUS.

WE MOVE EAST!

KILL EVERY MOVING THING YOU ENCOUNTER!

THEIR HOMES WILL PROVIDE NO SHELTER, NO PROTECTION...

WE WILL NOT BE STOPPED.

BRITTANY DEAR, WOULD YOU PLEASE DEAL WITH THIS?

YES, MOMMY ABIGAIL.

DID I DO GOOD?

VERY GOOD.

FEED, MY CHILDREN. THE NIGHT IS YOUNG AND THERE IS MUCH TO DO!

IS SHE ALWAYS THIS HAPPY?

NO...

BUT I SURE HOPE TO HELL SHE STAYS THAT WAY.

SURE I CAN'T GO?

POSITIVE.

GOT YOU BACK ONCE, AIN'T LOSING YOU AGAIN.

REMEMBER WHAT I SAID.

COULDN'T FORGET IF I TRIED.

WE GOTTA GO.

YES, NOT TOO LONG BEFORE SUNLIGHT.

GOOD LUCK.

YOU TOO.

DON'T THINK WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT BACK.

SURE GLAD YOU WASN'T MY A.A.U. COACH.

JUST CALLING IT HOW I SEE IT.

REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING I USED TO SAY TO THOMAS JEFFERSON...

"JUST BECAUSE IT'S TRUE DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO SAY IT."

WHAT WAS HIS RESPONSE?

"FUCK YOU, JOHN."

NICE. WISH I COULD'VE MET THE MAN.

THE WORLD HAS DESCENDED INTO MADNESS.

THIS WAS TO BE EXPECTED.

FOR CENTURIES, WE IGNORED THE PAIN OF MANY.

WHILE INFLICTING CONSIDERABLY MORE IN THE PROCESS.

THIS IS THE RECKONING PROPHESIED EONS AGO.

THE BATTLE THAT CANNOT BE LOOKED AWAY FROM.

MY COMRADES AND I LEFT THE WORLD TO DEVELOP OURSELVES WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

THIS CONFLICT CANNOT BE IGNORED.

WE MUST JOIN THE BATTLE.

WHO DAT?

A FRIEND.

YOU ARE UNDEAD, YET YOU HAVE NOT JOINED THOSE THAT SEEK TO DESTROY THIS WORLD.

WE AIN'T 'BOUT THAT LIFE, BUT I'M STILL ASKING, "WHO ARE YOU?"

MY NAME IS TITUBA.

"I WAS BORN IN THE MOUNTAINS OF ITALY, BUT FLED AS A CHILD AFTER MY VILLAGE WAS CONQUERED.

"I WAS TAUGHT THE WAYS OF THE DARK REALM BUT WAS PERSECUTED DUE TO THE ANTIQUATED VIEWS OF WESTERN SOCIETY."

I DIED THAT DAY. BUT WAS REBORN SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

THINK WE CAN ALL RELATE TO THAT.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

"I CAME TO PHILADELPHIA TO WORK WITH JOHN AFRICA TO IMPROVE THINGS FOR MY PEOPLE."

"M.O.V.E."

"YES. OUR DREAMS OF THAT TIME WERE DESTROYED, BUT WE STAYED NONETHELESS."

I HAVE COMRADES OF THE SORT THAT COULD HELP IN THIS FIGHT.

THE MORE, THE MERRIER. ALTHOUGH OUR CHANCES OF MAKING IT OUT ALIVE AREN'T TOO GOOD.

THOSE ODDS MAY HAVE JUST RISEN.

"WE DECIDED IT WAS BEST TO RESIDE IN THE SHADOWS...

"...AWAY FROM THE WORLD.

"HERE WE COULD EVOLVE TO THE BEST OF OURSELVES WITHOUT THE PAIN OF SOCIETY DISRUPTING OUR GROWTH.

"FOR DECADES, THERE WAS ONLY CONTEMPLATION--CONTROLLING OUR INNER BEASTS...

"FOCUSING OUR ANGER FOR THE WAR TO COME..."

"WHICH IT APPEARS IS UPON US.

"SO, OUR REST HAS MET ITS END.

"NOW THERE IS ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO...

"STAND.

"JOHN AFRICA LOVED GIL SCOTT-HERON.

"A PARTICULAR SONG, 'HOME IS WHERE THE HATRED IS,' WOULD ECHO THROUGH OUR HOME.

"I DIDN'T INITIALLY UNDERSTAND ITS MEANING.

"NOW I DO.

"FOR AMERICA TO BE OUR TRUE HOME, IT MUST ENDURE A RECKONING. ONE THAT DESTROYS THE SENTIMENTS OF THE PAST. ONLY THEN CAN THERE BE PEACE.

"ALTHOUGH OUR POWER WAS CULLED IN DARKNESS...

"WE WERE BORN AS CREATURES OF LIGHT."

"AND THAT LIGHT STILL SHINES WITHIN US."

OH, SHIT.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT IF THEY'RE ON OUR SIDE, I'M FEELING BETTER ABOUT THIS SHIT.

ABIGAIL... IS THAT...

JOHN?

YES, ABIGAIL...

I THINK WE NEED TO END THIS THING RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.

'BOUT TIME YOU GREW A PAIR.

AFTERWORD

You wanted werewolves? Well, they're here!

Hope you enjoyed Arc 3 of *Killadelphia*. In a lot of ways, it's the one that's the most personal to me. There's this cathartic thing that happens when I write from the heart and there are themes that speak directly to my life.

Jason's art continues to astound me. The guy is just beyond talented. There are many times throughout this Killadelphia journey when he's gone beyond what my scripts request. The entirety of Arc 3 has been that.

Also, gotta throw some shouts of praise to team *Killadelphia*; Chris Mitten, Luis NCT, Greg Tumbarello, Nicole Palmquist, Jordan Butler, all of our variant cover artists, Marshall Dillon, and my assistant Carlos Gutierrez, who has a way better life than I do.

As to Arc 4, you "day-ones" deserve answers; why is all of this happening? Who is really behind it? Have we seen the last of historical figures to join this bloody, macabre game of chess? Who exactly are those Amazonians who seem to delight in turning said historical figures into creatures of the night?

All will be answered! But wait, there's more...

Perhaps you haven't heard, but the world of *Killadelphia* is expanding! By the time you're reading this, *Nita Hawes' Nightmare Blog* should have dropped. *Johnny Gatlin*—the demon Corson's hitman; exactor of vengeance and general keeper of order in Hell—will be coming to my Substack page (subscribe now!) in mid-November, as will *Elysium Gardens*—yes, I know they're in *Killadelphia* now, but wouldn it be great to know exactly how and what they were doing over those hundreds of years before they got here? Well, now you will, as they too will be coming on Substack (did I mention to subscribe now?)!

Also coming to my Substack page is a yet to be titled zombie story set in Flint, Michigan which will be published around late November, early December, so...

Subscribe now!

Please.

Some have been asking about any developments in regards to the *Killadelphia* television series. Well...

We have an incredible actor attached to the role of James Sangster!

He was who I had in mind years ago when this whole idea was brewing in my head, and I'm thanking both him and the rulers of the universe that he got our world and agreed to hop on board.

Can't wait to share more with you folks!

So, back to *Killadelphia* the comic series...

Let's see, as it stands, we've got war in the streets involving people, vampires, werewolves, gods, and former Presidents-turned-vampires! Oh, and a witch!

I wonder... what if there was something—or someone—that could throw a wrench into all of this?

If you want to know the answer to that question and more, please pick up Killadelphia 19, coming soon wherever fine comics and such are sold!

Rodney Barnes
September 2021

P.S. - I thank you all for your support of our book. It means the world to us.



BARNES & ALEXANDER

PRESENT

ELYSIUM GARDENS









PHILADELPHIA. MAY 1ST, 1985.

MOVE BOMBINGS

IT TOOK TWENTY YEARS TO GET FROM LOS ANGELES TO PHILADELPHIA.

ALONG THE WAY, WE FACED A MYRIAD OF TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS.

UPON OUR ARRIVAL, WE ENCOUNTERED ANARCHO-PRIMITIVIST GROUP **M.O.V.E.**, WHO, MUCH LIKE THE PANTHERS AND THE NATION, SPOKE TO THE EMPOWERMENT OF OUR PEOPLE. BUT AS WELL...

...WE FOUND AN ECHO OF THE STREGHERIAN WITCH COVEN THAT CURSED US SO VERY LONG AGO.

IN THE WITCH'S EYES WAS AWARENESS OF OUR INTENTION...

...WHICH WAS TO KILL HER.

MY NAME IS TITUBA. I WAS TOLD LONG AGO THAT THE CURSED NORTH AFRICANS WOULD FIND ME IN THEIR QUEST FOR REVENGE.

AMIDST THE TRAUMA AMERICA INFLICTED UPON ME, THE WARNING DIMMED.

MY PEOPLE, THE ONES YOU PILLAGED, FELL INTO DESPAIR AFTER YOUR VICTORY.

YOU LEFT US NOTHING.

AS WAS THE WAY, YOU ENSURED THAT YOUR TRIUMPH WOULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

FROM THOSE ACTIONS, I WAS CONCEIVED. BORN INTO A WORLD WITH NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE GREATNESS THAT CAME BEFORE ME.

THRUST INTO POVERTY, WE DEPARTED THE ITALIAN MOUNTAINSIDE...

WHILE AT SEA, I WAS TAUGHT THE MYSTICISM THAT FOR CENTURIES THE STREGHERIAN CULTIVATED WITH THE SPIRIT REALM.

WE SETTLED IN A PEACEFUL ARAWAK VILLAGE IN SOUTH AMERICA AND BEGAN PUTTING OUR LIVES BACK TOGETHER. UNTIL, ON MISSION, SAMUEL PARRIS--A NEW MINISTER OF SALEM VILLAGE IN THE UNITED STATES--PURCHASED ME IN 1680.

AS MY MOTHER'S TEARS FELL, MY RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTINUE IN THE WAYS OF HER TEACHINGS BECAME EVER SO CLEAR.

THERE WAS NO FREEDOM IN AMERICA FOR ONE WHOSE SKIN WAS SUCH AS MINE. AS SUCH, MY POWER SERVED AS PROTECTION.

ONLOOKERS DESIRED THAT WHICH I KNEW.

PRESENTED WITH THE THREAT OF DEATH, I SHARED MY KNOWLEDGE.

CHRISTIANITY--THE FOUNDATION OF SALEM'S CULTURE--DECRIED THE WORDS, "SUFFER NOT A WITCH TO LIVE," AS ONE OF ITS CORE PRINCIPLES.

ITS LEADERS WERE COMMITTED TO THAT EDICT...

THE STREGHERIA POWER DEFIED THEIR TORTURE.

...I WAS THE FIRST TO DIE.

ON A COOL BOSTON EVENING, MY BODY MET ALL MANNER OF DESECRATION.

IT TOOK CENTURIES FOR MY BODY TO HEAL.

THIS SCAR IS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF THAT TIME.

MY SISTER, THAT IS QUITE THE STORY.

BUT WE DIDN'T COME HERE FOR A HISTORY LESSON.

WE HAVE OUR OWN.

THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON WE'RE HERE.

TO DESTROY YOU.

AUDUBON BALLROOM. FEBRUARY 21, 1965.

EVERYTHING CAN CHANGE IN A MOMENT.

CERTAIN EVENTS HAVE THE POWER TO SHIFT THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF AN ENTIRE PEOPLE.

THE DAY MALCOLM X MET HIS WORLDLY END, A SENSE OF CYNICISM SAT WHERE HOPE ONCE STOOD.

AS A MAN ONCE SAID, "MALCOLM WAS OUR MANHOOD, OUR LIVING BLACK MANHOOD!"

TO SOME, THE IDEA THAT ONE PERSON COULD GALVANIZE THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF AN OPPRESSED PEOPLE WAS TERRIFYING.

THE SYSTEM WILL RATIONALIZE BEHAVIOR, THAT WERE IT TO COME FROM THE OPPRESSED, IT WOULD BE DEEMED BARBAROUS.

BUT REVOLUTION, WHETHER RIGHTEOUS OR UNRIGHTEOUS, IS NEVER PLEASANT.

FREE HUEY

FREE HUEY

AS SUCH, THOSE IN OPPOSITION MUST BREAK THE WILL OF THE REVOLUTIONARY.

COINTELPRO

BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.

IT TOOK A WHILE TO FIGURE OUT HOW WE WOULD SETTLE INTO THIS SOCIETY.

PASSIONS WERE DIVIDED.

ON ONE HAND, WE WANTED REVENGE AGAINST THE ANCESTORS OF THOSE THAT CURSED US.

ON THE OTHER, WE WANTED TO JOIN THE FIGHT TO LIBERATE OUR PEOPLE.

THE UNIVERSE GRANTED US THE OPPORTUNITY TO KILL BOTH BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.

SO TO TASK NUMBER ONE...

KILL THE WITCH!

NO.

I WILL NOT DIE ON THIS DAY.

URKK--

=GASP=

THE RAGE YOU CARRY EMPOWERS MY SPELLS... IT IS FUELED BY THE ENERGY MY PEOPLE PLACED WITHIN YOU CENTURIES AGO.

PERHAPS IN THIS STATE, YOU WILL LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

KAA--

GUHH--

I WAS NOT PRESENT WHEN MY PEOPLE CURSED YOU WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE WOLF. YES, MY BLOOD IS THEIR BLOOD...

...BUT MY SENSIBILITIES ARE NOT AGAINST YOU. BECAUSE THEY ARE ALIGNED WITH DESTROYING THE SYSTEM THAT OPPRESSES OUR PEOPLE.

THE PAST IS THE PAST, AND ALTHOUGH IT HAS A PLACE, THE CURRENT STATE OF THIS WORLD SUPERSEDES THE SINS OF MY FOREMOTHERS AND FATHERS. THAT SAID... YOUR... POWER....

...ALONG WITH MY POWER... CAN BALANCE THE SCALES OF THIS FIGHT. BUT FOR THAT TO BE, WE MUST WORK TOGETHER. WILL YOU STAND WITH ME, BROTHERS AND SISTERS?

...

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE.

"BLACK PEOPLE WALKING TOGETHER TERRIFIES THE POWERS THAT BE.

BOMBING US!

REMEMBER MOVE!

NO JUSTICE NO PEACE

RIGHTS FOR ALL !!!

I AM A MAN

RIGHTS FOR ALL

"IN UNITY, THERE IS POWER."

THAT IS WHAT THIS MOMENT REQUIRES.

WE MUST BECOME ONE.

"THE FORCES THAT PROTECT THE STATUS QUO WILL BE AGAINST US.

MOVE MATTERS

NO JUSTICE NO PEACE

"FINDING ALL MANNER OF WAYS TO CREATE DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND OUR GOALS."

FBI

BUT WE MUST PERSIST!

WE ARE CREATURES FUELED BY MAGIC. OUR COLLECTIVE ABILITIES COULD BRING THIS SYSTEM TO ITS KNEES.

WE HAVE POWER, BUT IF MY MATH IS CORRECT, THERE ARE ONLY FIVE OF US.

CAN FIVE INDIVIDUALS BRING DOWN AN ENTIRE POWER STRUCTURE?

"IF WE ARE SMART, YES.

"WE WILL REMAIN IN THE SHADOWS...

"ATTACKING IN ARENAS WHERE OUR OPPONENT FEELS SAFEST.

"OUR ABILITIES ARE OF THE SORT THAT BRING ABOUT CONFUSION.

"THAT IS OUR ASSET."

PFFFT

"THEIR ARROGANCE WHICH STANDS ON CENTURIES OF OPPRESSION WILL BE THEIR ACHILLES HEEL.

"WITHOUT REMORSE, WE WILL ERADICATE ALL WHO STAND IN THE WAY OF FREEDOM.

"STRIKING DOWN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO FURTHER SUBJUGATE OUR PEOPLE.

"TALES OF OUR DEEDS WILL SPREAD.

"AND THE FIVE INDIVIDUALS IN THIS ROOM WILL BECOME LEGEND."

THAT, BROTHER JABIR, IS HOW WE WILL FREE OUR PEOPLE.

RIGHT ON.

WE WILL FIGHT AS ONE...

...UNTIL THE TASK IS DONE.

MAY 13, 1985.

THIS FEELS LIKE HOME.

SO MUCH WAS LEARNED AFTER MALCOLM'S DEATH...

THERE WAS A CONCERTED EFFORT FROM ALL TO WORK TOGETHER TO HEAL THE WOUNDS OF THE PAST.

HOPE IS BUT A CONCEPT, BUT WERE IT TO MANIFEST TANGIBLY, THIS WOULD BE THE RESULT.

WE HAD COME SO FAR AND SUFFERED FOR SO LONG THAT THE DISPLAY BEFORE US VALIDATED OUR EFFORTS.

NOT SINCE OUR DAYS IN NORTH AFRICA, BEFORE THE CURSE, HAD WE KNOWN SUCH UNITY AMONGST OUR PEOPLE.

WHERE THE SPOILS OF CONQUEST WERE SHARED WITH ALL.

OTHERS HAD TRIED TO FOSTER THIS SENTIMENT BUT FELL PREY TO A SYSTEM DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO.

TROUBLE IS COMING. I FEEL IT. WE MUST PROTECT THESE PEOPLE...

WE CANNOT UNLEASH THAT WHICH IS WITHIN US HERE, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.

THE PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT ARE HEADED THIS WAY. PLEASE REMAIN CALM AND DO AS WE PLANNED.

WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING, SO HOPEFULLY THEY'LL JUST ROUST US AND LEAVE.

BROTHER AFRICA, THEY'RE HERE.

AND I DON'T THINK THEY'RE HERE TO ROUST US.

POLI

EVERYBODY! MOVE!

WE MUST GO TO THE CELLAR.

YOU HEARD HER, LET'S GO! WHEN THE AUTHORITIES ENTER, WE'LL BE READY.

WE WERE PREPARED FOR CONFLICT...

...BUT WHAT WE KNOW OF WAR WAS GROUNDED IN HONOR.

OUR OPPONENT WAS NOT CONFINED TO SUCH PRINCIPLES.

THEIR GOAL WASN'T TO ENFORCE LAW...

...IT WAS TO BREAK OUR SPIRIT...

...OUR WILL.

EVEN IF IT MEANT BURNING US TO DEATH.

MAY 13, 1985.

IN THIS MOMENT, I CAME TO A NUMBER OF STARTLING REALIZATIONS.

THE HOPE OF CHANGING THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THOSE WHO PERPETRATED THIS ACT IS A FOOL'S DREAM.

IN THEIR EYES, EMPATHY FOR THOSE SUCH AS US IS IMPOSSIBLE...

...BUT MOST SIGNIFICANT WAS THAT ANY WHO ATTEMPT TO EVOLVE AMERICA PAST THE IDEA OF ITS FOUNDING ROOTS WILL FACE DEATH.

OUR PLAN WAS TO DEFEND OUR M.O.V.E. BROTHERS AND SISTERS AGAINST ANY WHO MEANT THEM HARM.

BUT THIS OPPONENT DIPPED INTO A WELL OF BRUTALITY WE NEVER IMAGINED WAS POSSIBLE.

IN NORTH AFRICA, LANDS WERE CONQUERED IN THE NAME OF EMPOWERING OUR PEOPLE.

THERE WAS DEATH AND OTHER ACTS WHICH COME WITH WAR, BUT WE NEVER SOUGHT TO DESTROY OR DEPRIVE A CULTURE OF ITS SELF-ACTUALIZATION. VICTORY WAS SATISFACTION ENOUGH.

WHAT WE WERE EXPERIENCING SPOKE TO THE SENSIBILITIES OF OUR ENEMY.

AN ENEMY THAT HATES US.

WITHIN THAT HATE IS FEAR THAT CANNOT BE REASONED WITH.

RESTING ON A NARCISSISTIC PILLAR OF ANGER.

SAID ANGER, CENTURIES IN THE MAKING, IS IMPERVIOUS TO LOGIC.

WITH ALL OF OUR COLLECTIVE POWER AND WILL, WE CANNOT OVERCOME THIS.

THE FLAMES THAT LEAPT AROUND US ARE BUT HELLFIRE SPAWNED ON EARTH.

THIS MOMENT REQUIRES SUCH.

IN OUR TIME, WHEN WE MET DEFEAT, THERE WAS A PERIOD OF REFLECTION.

FOR THIS IS NOT OUR TIME.

ONE WEEK LATER.

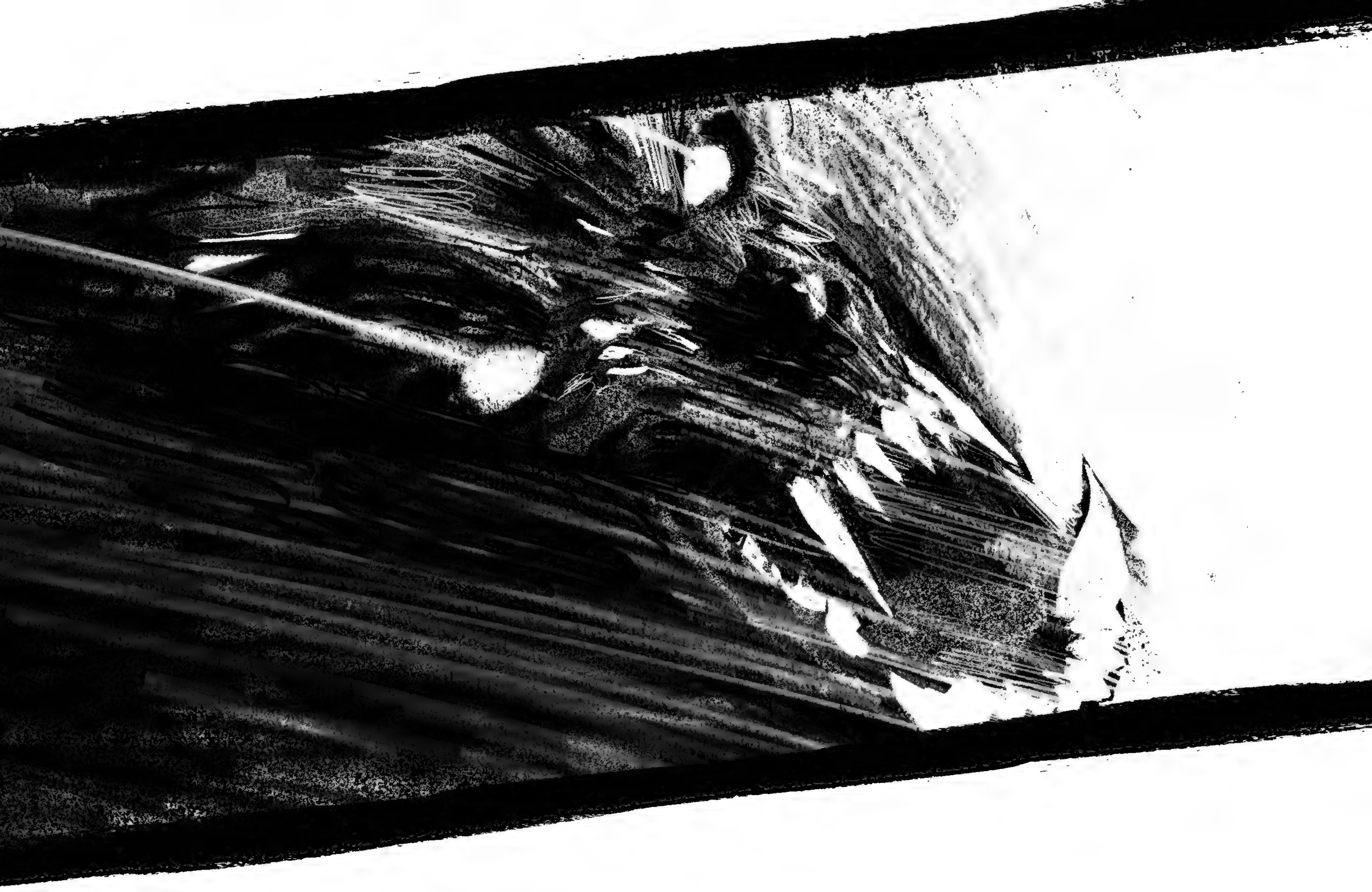
WE MUST LEARN FROM THIS MOMENT.

ACTS SUCH AS THESE WILL CONTINUE. AND AT SOME POINT, OUR PEOPLE WILL RISE UP. WHEN THEY DO, WE WILL STAND WITH THEM--NOT JUST WITH FEROCITY, BUT WITH THE HUMILITY THAT ACCOMPANIES LOSS. THAT, MY BROTHERS AND SISTER, IS THE KEY TO VICTORY.

WE ARE GUILTY OF HOLDING ON TO THE OLD WAY. IT IS TIME TO EVOLVE... FOR ONCE WE RETURN...

...WE WILL DESTROY ALL WHO STAND AGAINST US.

THE END?



1_MAIN VERSIONS [13-18]
2_VARIANT EDITIONS [13-18]

COVER GALLERY





[13 MAIN] Jason Shawn Alexander



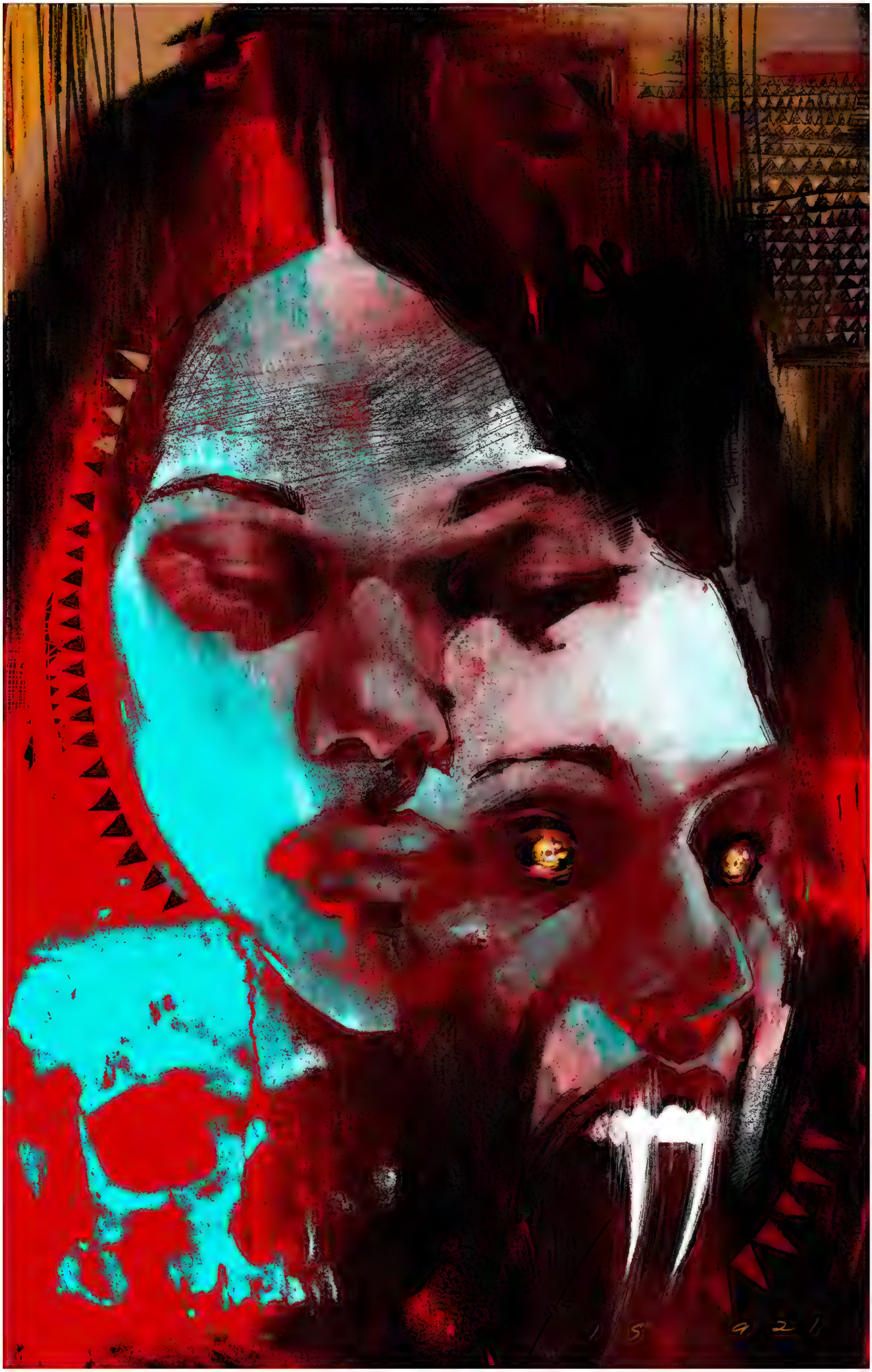
[13 VARIANT] David Mack



[14 MAIN] Jason Shawn Alexander
Luis NCT



[14 VARIANT] Jonathan Wayshak



[15 MAIN] Jason Shawn Alexander



[15 VARIANT] Paul Pope
Luis NCT



[16 MAIN] Jason Shawn Alexander



[16 VARIANT] James O'Barr



[17 MAIN] Jason Shawn Alexander



[17 VARIANT] Kent Williams



[18 MAIN] Jason Shawn Alexander



[18 VARIANT] Simon Bisley



[18 VARIANT MARTINS COLLECTABLES EXCL.] Björn Barends



BIOGRAPHIES



RODNEY BARNES

Rodney is an award-winning writer/producer of television, film, and comics. His credits include HBO's *Showtime*, Hulu's *Wu-Tang: An American Saga*, Marvel's *Runaways*, Starz's *American Gods*, *The Boondocks*, *My Wife and Kids*, *Everybody Hates Chris*, and the Academy Awards.

He has received recognition from AFI, the NAACP Image Awards, and the Peabody Committee for his work as a writer and producer. Along with *Killadelphia*, Rodney has authored graphic novels for Lion Forge's *Quincredible*, as well as *Star Wars - Lando: Double or Nothing*, *Falcon*, and *Secret Empire: Birth of a Patriot* for Marvel Comics.



JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER

Jason is an artist/writer who has worked in comics for over twenty years, receiving two Eisner Award nominations and the Silver Medal from the Society of Illustrators. Alongside his comics career, Jason exhibits his fine art work in galleries in Los Angeles, New York, London, Berlin, and has shown in the National Portrait Gallery at the Smithsonian.

Along with *Killadelphia*, his series *Empty Zone* has garnered much critical acclaim. Among his list of credits, he was co-writer and artist of *Spawn*, and has contributed his art to *Hellboy*, *Abe Sapien*, *Batman*, *Superman*, *The Escapists*, *The Shadow*, *The Secret*, *Frostbite*, *30 Days of Night*, *Queen and Country*, *Marvel Zombies*, *Hellraiser*, and more. He's also created art for motion comics for such films as *Pan's Labyrinth*, *Predators*, and *Mad Max*.



LUIS NCT

Luis is a Mediterranean storyteller, illustrator, painter, writer, and colorist who has been creating and self-publishing comic books since high school. He studied at Polytechnic University of Valencia and began his career as an illustrator creating artwork for roleplaying games and short films.

Recent works include coloring American comic books such as *Empty Zone* for Image and *Frostbite* for DC. He's published several creator-owned graphic novels, including *Sleepers* and *Wahcommo*, and many short stories, including a critically acclaimed manga *Mina No Uta* that appeared in Japanese magazine *Tezucomi*. He also worked as concept artist and character designer on the animated feature film *Another Day of Life*.



CHRISTOPHER MITTEN

Christopher is originally from the cow-dappled expanse of southern Wisconsin. He now spends his time roaming the misty wilds of suburban Chicago, drawing little people in little boxes. Past credits include, *Wasteland* from Oni Press, *The Disciples* from Black Mask, and *Criminal Macabre*, as well as several Mignola-verse books, including entries for *Hellboy* and *Witchfinder* from Dark Horse Comics.



MARSHALL DILLON

Marshall has been in the comics and entertainment industries for twenty-five years, with notable clients including the U.S. Army, the Department of Health, the BBC, Intel, and AT&T.

Franchises and properties he's worked on include *G.I. Joe*, *Transformers*, *Street Fighter*, *Mega Man*, *Finding Nemo*, and *The Muppets*, as well as various movie tie-ins and video game properties. He's very excited to contribute to *Killadelphia* and to be a part of such a dynamic and energetic team.



GREG TUMBARELLO

Greg has over fifteen years professional experience in the comics and entertainment industry, having worked as an editor, writer and producer for MTV Networks, Disco Fries Music/Liftoff Recordings, The Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, Image Comics, Tokyopop, Marvel and DC Entertainment, among others.

He spent seven years as an editor at Legendary Entertainment after cofounding and structuring their successful comic book division. During his tenure, he worked on New York Times best-selling graphic novels such as *Godzilla: Awakening* and *Pacific Rim: Tales from Year Zero*. He was an integral part of the team that brought to life Grant Morrison and Frazer Irving's *Annihilator*, which garnered an Eisner Award nomination and Frank Miller's *Holy Terror*, which launched the division as a top ten comics publisher.



NICOLE PALMQUIST

Nicole is a Swedish-Canadian artist and project manager. Ink on paper is her jam both creatively and professionally, and has made a career of it for over twenty years. She has managed print and packaging for clients such as Universal, 20th Century Fox, Sony Entertainment, and Disney.

Her art uses the language of anatomy as a muralist and body painter. She is the creator of *booleep* and experiments with traditional stop motion animation. She is thrilled to now be working on *Killadelphia* with the best storytellers in the business.



SHERARD JACKSON

Sherard is a comic book artist, animator, and writer, whose work has been published by Image Comics, DC, Devil's Due, BOOM! Studios, and others. His animation work includes the Warner Bros. film, *A Scanner Darkly*, and Collection Agency Films' *Flatland: the Movie*. He is currently working on *Darbi* for Webtoon, and graphic design for *Killadelphia*.



JORDAN BUTLER

Jordan is a graphic designer and digital sculptor who has worked for McFarlane Toys for over six years on licenses such as *The Walking Dead*, *Destiny*, *Fortnite*, *DC* and *Spawn*, just to name a few. His publishing credits include working on over fifty issues of *Spawn* including the historic issues 300 and 301, among other titles. Before making the transition to entertainment he spent twelve glorious years driving a school bus for children with special needs.



HOME IS WHERE THE HATRED IS

As vampire queen Abigail Adams and her legion feast upon Philadelphia, a new vampire king enters the game... and his name is Thomas Jefferson! The necromancing third president of the United States plans to (literally) raise hell as he sets forth to craft a new America far more twisted than the one he sought to create two and a half centuries ago.

Meanwhile, young Jimmy Sangster has been bitten and is quickly becoming a bloodthirsty creature of the night. Will SeeSaw and James Sangster Sr. be able to find a way to reverse his condition before his soul is lost forever, or will Jimmy's newborn instincts take over and put everyone he loves in harm's way?

Collects issues 13 to 18 of the Eisner Award-nominated series **KILLADELPHIA**, along with the thrilling continuation of the werewolf tie-in story **ELYSIUM GARDENS**.



"Rodney Barnes is one of the most exciting genre writers out there and KILLADELPHIA is a great blend of poignant social commentary and riveting horror storytelling."

—Matthew A. Cherry (Oscar-winning director of *Hair Love*)

"As if the hood needed more horror! The relationship between father and son is scary enough, but KILLADELPHIA added a whole other layer to it!!! I love horror, sci-fi, fantasy, and the hood through the lens of blackness! A truly unique graphic novel experience. Nothing like KILLADELPHIA exists!!"

—Lenard "CThaGod" McKelvey

"If you love vampires that scare the shit out of you? You can find them in KILLADELPHIA."

—Snoop Dogg

image

RATED M / MATURE

Horror, Crime & Mystery, Supernatural